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Postal Tax Stamps for Aviation

George Pataki

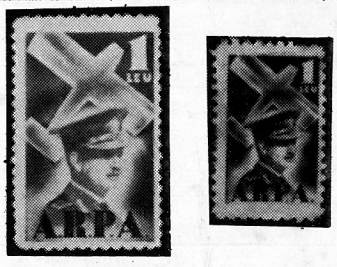
In the time between the world wars, the Romanian posts required the use of various postal tax stamps besides the normal postage stamps. During certain periods, not one, but two different postal taxes were required at the same time on some of the mail.

After "Asistența Socială" charity stamps were no longer required (see "Romanian 'Asistența Socială' Charity and Postal Tax Due Stamps") in R.P.S., No.4/1981), several sets of postal tax stamps for aviation were issued to be used only on domestic mail. The funds collected were intended to develop the Romanian air force.

We present each issue separately and give their characteristics in a table below. All issues share the common characteristic of being printed by the photogravure method. All are on ordinary white paper (of variable thicknesses), except for the "small A.R.P.A." stamp printed on very thin (pelure) paper. Two of these issues are unwatermarked, the others have watermark type XIII (C.C.), also known as "Crowns and monograms", with the exception of the "Taxa de Plată" (Postage due) stamps which have watermark type XII (P.T.T.). The most common watermark position for the vertical format stamps is vertical, while for the horizontal stamps it is horizontal; other positions constitute scarce varieties.

A.R.P.A.

In 1931, a private society called "Asociația Româna Pentru Aviație (Romanian Association for Aviation) or "A.R.P.A." received permission to collect funds for aviation through the issuance of 2 labels to be used voluntarily, however, the public was often pressured to buy them. These 2 labels have the same vertical design, showing the denomination, "1 LEU", and a plane's silhouette at top and on the bottom a portrait of King Carol II in his Air Force uniform above the initials "A.R.P.A.". The larger label measures 20.5 by 31.5mm., is blue and was to be affixed on various types of mail. The smaller label measures 16.5 by 24 mm., is purple and was for use on train tickets. Printed on white, unwatermarked paper, both are perforated 13½. When the mandatory "Timbrul Aviației" was issued, some cities of Transylvania, located far from Bucharest, did not receive these on time. In such cities, such as Oradea, the A.R.P.A. labels were used instead.



A.R.P.A. labels.

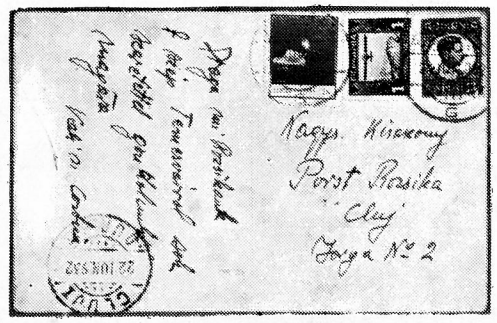
The "Romania Revenues" by Andrew Hall lists another A.R.P.A. label, issued in 1928, black on cream, perf. 11½, showing a monoplane with the letters "A.R.P.A." on the wing and the denomination "1 LEU".

Most catalogues do not list these labels, given that they are not official postal issues.

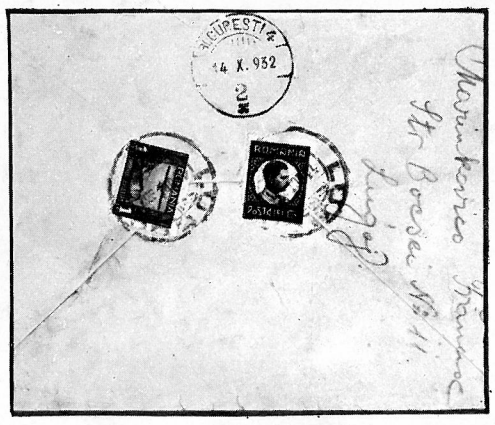
TIMBRUL AVIATIEI (Plane)

On May 15, 1931, a set of postal tax stamps for aviation was issued. The horizontal design's central frame, flanked by 2 eagles, dipicts an airplane flying over mountains towards the viewer. The top reads "ROMANIA" and the bottom "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI" (Aviation Stamp) and the lower left and lower right corners give the denominations. They were designed by A.

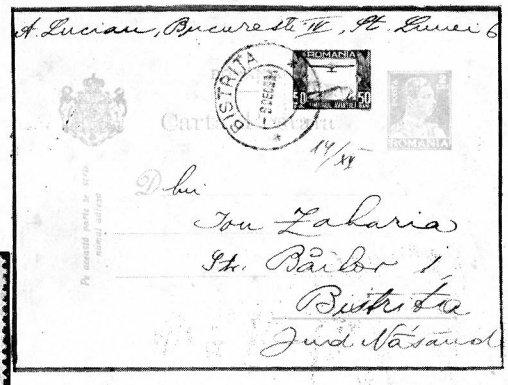
Timbrul Aviatiei (Plane).



1 Leu Timbrul Aviației on picture postcard.



1 Leu Timbrul Aviației on cover.



50 Bani Timbrul Aviației on postal card H & G #89.

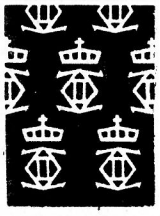
Vertical pair of 50 Bani Timbrul Aviatiei, imperf. between, on postal card H & G #92.

Murnu, whose name appears in the lower right corner. Their use was mandatory on domestic mail. The 50 Bani, greenish blue was intended for postal cards and picture postcards; the 1 Leu, red brown, for letters; the 2 Lei, ultramarine, for telegram and parcel post forms. The military postal cards enjoyed reduced postal rates and were exempt from the use of postal tax stamps. All three stamps were also used on fiscal documents in various combinations dependent on the amount involved in the transaction. Printed on medium thick, white, unwatermarked paper, they are perforated in gauges from 13½ to 14½ and compounds thereof. Imperforates are also known. The 1 Leu's red brown ink will disolve in water. Both the 50 Bani and 1 Leu are known in vertical pairs, imperf. between.

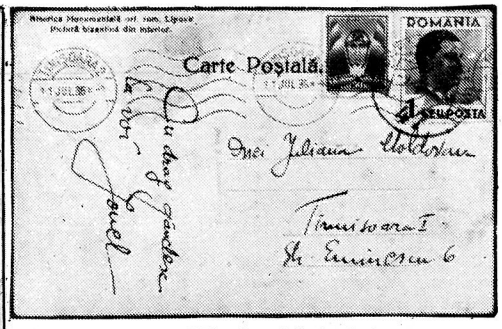
TIMBRUL AVIATIEI (Pilot)

April 1982 marked the issuance of a new "Timbrul Aviației" set with a new vertical design. Its center portrays Romeo Popescu, a famous Romanian pilot who died in a plane crash. The top reads "ROMANIA", the bottom "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI", and the denomination is in the bottom's center. These stamps are printed by photogravure on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII, Scott, wmk. #230), in vertical position. The perforation again varies from 13½ to 14½, simple or compound. 200 sets of imperforates were also printed. The 50 Bani, greenish (Prussian) blue, was affixed on printed matter, postal cards and picture postcards; the 1 Leu, red brown, was used on picture postcards and letters, while the 2 Lei, ultramarine, was intended for telegrams and parcel post forms. As is shown in "Varying Postal Rates for Picture Postcards", R.P.S., No. 2/1983, the picture postcards carrying 5 words or less required only 50 Bani postal tax stamps for aviation (besides the regular postage stamps); those with full-length messages needed 1 Leu such stamps. The 2 Lei, ultramarine, was found also on an identification card, issued by the police, together with a fiscal stamp.

Timbrul Aviatiei (Pilot).

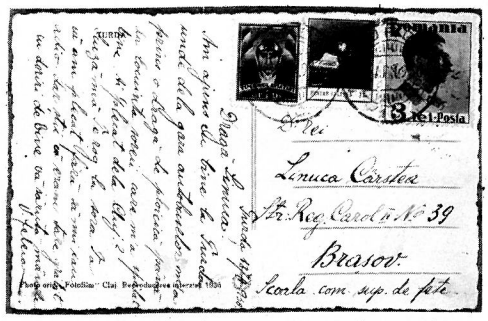


C.C. watermark (Type XIII).



50 Bani Timbrul Aviației on picture postcard with short message.

50 Bani Timbrul Aviației on postal card H & G "95.



1 Leu Timbrul Aviației on picture postcard with full-length message.

1 Leu Timbrul Aviației on cover.

FONDUL AVIATIEI (Pilot)

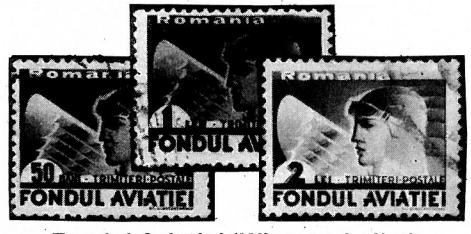
In April 1936, a new set of tax stamps for aviation was issued. Identical in design with the above, they differ only in that "FONDUL AVIATIEI" (Aviation Fund) replaces "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI". They were printed by photogravure, on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in the vertical position. The 5 Lei is also known watermarked in horizontal position. Their perforation is 14½ x 14. The 10 Bani black olive, and the 20 Bani. violet, were required on posters and advertising leaflets, the 3 Lei, green and the 5 Lei, red carmine, were affixed on receipts and bills.

Fondul Aviației (Pilot).

As they were not issued for postal purposes, they are not listed by most catalogues. However, they were tolerated by the posts for use on mail instead of the "Timbrul Aviației" stamps when those were not available. This situation lasted until Oct. 1936 when the next set appeared.

FONDUL AVIATIEI (Wing and pilot)

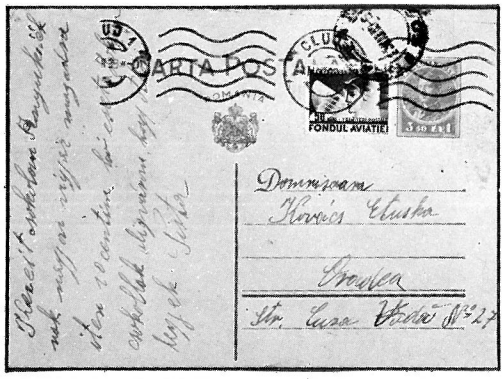
In Oct. 1936, a new set of 3 postal tax stamps for aviation was issued. These are designed by Ștefan Constantinescu whose name is in the lower right corner, and were printed in sheets of 100. Their format is horizontal and they show a stylized wing and the profile of a pilot looking to the viewer's left: Besides the denomination, the inscription reads "ROMANIA/TRIMITERI POSTALE/FONDUL AVIATIEI". "Trimiteri postale" means "postal mailings". The 50 Bani, greenish blue, was used printed matter, postal cards and picture postcards with 5 words or less; the 1 Leu, red brown, was affixed on picture postcards with full-length messages and on envelopes; the 2 Lei, ultramarine, was used on telegrams and parcel post forms.



Fondul Aviației (Wing and pilot).

50 Bani Fondul Aviatiei on picture postcard with short message.

1 Leu Fondul Aviației on picture postcard with full-length message.



50 Bani Fondul Aviației on postal card H & G #97.

1 Leu Fondul Aviației on cover.

They were printed by photogravure, on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in horizontal position: both the 50 Bani and 1 Leu stamps are also known with the watermark in vertical position. The perforation is 14 x 14½. The 1 Leu is known in vertical pairs, imperf. between.

FONDUL AVIATIEI (Plane)

In Oct. 1936, another set of tax stamps for aviation with a different new design was also issued. This design, in a horizontal format, portrays a plane flying towards the viewer's left, and besides the denomination, the inscription reads "ROMANIA/ FONDUL AVIATIEI". The 10 Bani, yellow,

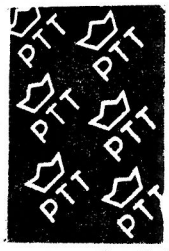
Fondul Aviației (Plane).

was used on posters, the 20 Bani, purple; 50 Bani, green; 1 Leu, brown; and the 2 Lei, blue, were affixed on fiscal documents. In the beginning, when the "Wing and pilot" type were not yet available, these were tolerated by the posts for use on mail. They were printed by photogravure on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in horizontal position. The perforation is 14 x 14½. The 50 Bani is known perf. 13½. A similar but smaller, blue "1 LEU" stamp, with "ROMANIA" on the top, is also known.

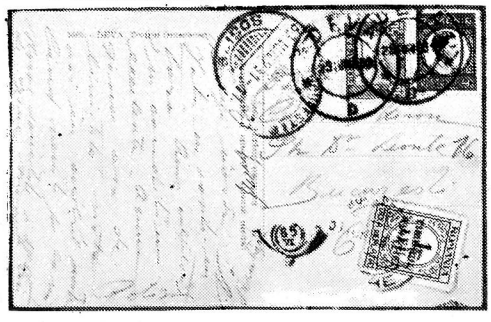
TAXA DE PLATA (Timbrul Aviației)

In 1931, 2 postal tax due stamps for aviation were issued. They were to be affixed on mail found without the required postage tax stamp(s) for aviation. They were applied by the addressee's post office. The fee, twice the missing amount, was paid by the recipient. For this purpose, in 1931, the black 1911 type "TAXA DE PLATA" (Postage Due) 1 and 2 Lei stamps (printed in 1930) were used after being overprinted in red with "TIMBRUL AVIAȚIEI", on 2 lines. They are on white, porous paper, with "P.T.T." watermark (type XII, Scott wmk.) and are perf. 13½.

Taxa de Plata (Timbrul Aviației).



P.T.T. watermark (Type XII).



1 Leu Taxa de Plata (Timbrul Aviației) on picture postcard.

The 1 Leu stamp is known in horizontal pairs, one with, the other without overprint; the overprint horizontally shifted to cover 2 adjacent stamps and in horizontal pairs imperf. between. This value was not issued without the overprint.

The 2 Lei stamp is known with horizontally or vertically shifted overprints straddling 2 stamps.

When some post offices ran out of overprinted postal tax due stamps, such stamps without overprint were used.

Some "Fondul Aviației" values used only for fiscal purposes could have been issued

Fiscal-revenues for aviation fund.

Semipostals with surtax for aviation fund.

later than the rest of the set. Several "Fondul Aviatiei fiscal stamps and fiscal stamps with such overprints were issued from 1937 to 1944 (see "Romania Revenues" by Andrew Hall) but only for fiscal and official documents.

In 1939, the use of the postal tax stamps for aviation was abolished. Beginning in 1940, the postal tax for aviation was included in the price of semipostals, such as Scott #B113-B118, B119-B126 and B138-144A (Gibbons #1438-1443, 1430-1437 and 1470-1483, Michel #625-630, 617-624 and 666-679).

Type	Denom.	Color	Scott	Gibbons	Michel	Wmk.	Perforation	Size mm.
A.R.P.A.	1 L	blue	—	—	—	—	13½	20.5 x 31.5
A.R.P.A.	1 L	purple	—	—	—	—	13½	16.5 x 24
Timbrul Aviației (Plane)	50 B	greenish blue	RA16	T1216	12	—	13½-14½	26.5 x 21
"	1 L	red brown	RA17	T1217	13	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA18	T1218	14	—	"	"
Timbrul Aviatiei (Pilot)	50 B	greenish blue	RA19	T1253	15	XIII	13½-14½	21 x 26.5
"	1 L	red brown	RA20	T1254	16	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA21	T1255	17	"	"	"
Fondul Aviației (Pilot)	10 B	black olive	—	—	18	XIII	14½ x 14	21 x 26.5
"	20 B	violet	—	—	19	"	"	"
"	3 L	yellowish green	—	—	Ia	"	"	"
"	5 L	red carmine	—	—	Ib	"	"	"
Fondul Aviației (Wing and pilot)	50 B	greenish blue	RA22	T1340	20	XIII	14 x 14½	26.5 x 21
"	1 L	red brown	RA23	T1341	21	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA24	T1342	22	"	"	"
Fondul Aviatiei (Plane)	10 B	orange	—	—	23	XIII	14 x 14½	26.5 x 21
"	20 B	purple	—	—	24	"	"	"
"	50 B	rose red	—	—	25	"	"	"
"	1 L	brown	—	—	—	"	"	"
"	2 L	blue	—	—	—	"	"	"
"	1 L	blue	—	—	—	XIII	13½ x 14	21.5 x 14.5
Taxa de Plată (Timbrul Aviației)	1 L	black & red ovpt.	RAJ20	TD1219	21	XII	13½	22.5-23 x 28.5
"	2 L	"	RAJ21	TD1220	22	"	"	"

The Romanian Coachmen of 1840.

George Pataki

A French envoy, who in 1840 travelled the Romanian Pricipalities, recorded his impressions in "Album Moldo-Valaque", published in 1848. In describing the many interesting sites and fascinating people encountered, he claimed that throughout his travels he had never ever met drivers and coachmen such as those of Moldavia and Walachia. According to him, even the most indifferent or most anxious and grumbling traveler must be cheered up upon witnessing Moldo-Walachian coachmen's ability, liveliness, philosophy, quickness and cheerfulness. The French adds that their swearing, however, makes the surroundings tremble.

He describes an incident when a Romanian archbishop was traveling by stagecoach. On one bad road, the carriage got stuck in a mud hole. The teamsters were yelling and whipping the horses. However, out of respect for the archbishop, they did not fill their speech with the usual curses. They informed the archbishop's companions that they could not pull the coach out. After these travelers suggested going a few kilometers to get extra horses, the coachmen held a conferernce. After short deliberations, the drivers approached the stage's window. Admitting to the archbishop their embarassment and affirming their scruples, they said that if only permitted to swear, they could free the vehicle without the aid of other horses. The archbishop thereupon gave them dispensation, being careful to plug up his ears. The horses, hearing the language to which they were accustomed to in difficult situations, succeeded in their renewed efforts and the journey was able to continue.

The Moldo-Walachian coachmen who carried mail and packages besides passengers are forerunners of today's Romanian postal employees. We understand that nowadays mail handlers do not swear or curse anymore. Perhaps it is not just a coincidence that they have lost some abilities and quickness. We often find mail sent over a hundred years ago from Romania to the United States to have been delivered in about 2 weeks. Today, even with air mail and all the advantages of modern postal facilities, it takes about 3 weeks.

I wouldn't mind if the Romanian postal employees would swear again. Even if delicate ears will have to be shielded, this should be accepted if it would move the mails fast again.

"Postal Relay Station" by D.A.M. Raffet.

ROUMANIA

1871 Lithographed, imperforate

White Wove Paper

Lot			Value S.Frs.
1613	✉	*5b A marginal vertical pair tied by "VASLUI" c.d.s. to a front which also bears a pair of the 1869 15b. vermilion, very fine and a rare mixed franking.*	250
1614		*— Three fine singles, one on toned paper and one with blue "BERLAD" c.d.s., used on receipts for registered letters (2) and for a parcel.*	300
1615	✉	*5b., a fine example used on a receipt for a registered letter and second printing 5b. deep carmine similarly used.*	225
1624	○	*10b., a strip from the bottom of the sheet comprising types 10, 5 and 6, several tiny defects but with "RIMNICUL VALORI" c.d.s. and a rare piece.*	225
1635	✉	*— TWO DIAGONAL BISECTS se-tenant to pairs of complete stamps on the front and back of an 1871 registered envelope from Jassy to Vienna to make up a 50b. rate and there is another 10b. to pay the registration rate. Both bisects have been additionally pen-cancelled but this extraordinary cover does not appear to have been taxed on arrival.*	1,500
1636	✉	*— A BISECT tied by "BOLGRAD" c.d.s. to a receipt for a registered letter. With Luder (1963) Certificate. Very rare with Pfenninger Certificate (1955).*	1,200
1644	✉	*25b. olive-brown sharing a blue "CRAIOVA" c.d.s. with 1869 50b. red and blue on an 1871 envelope to Paris, a fine mixed franking.*	250
1645	⎯	*25b. black-brown, a fine vertical strip used on large piece of an 1871 front addressed to Paris.*	140

Rose tinted paper

1646	★⊞	*5b. carmine, a fine marginal block, no gum but very fresh.*	120

Laid Paper

1647	★	*10b. yellow, a fine mint but heavily mounted pair, signed by A Diena.*	425
1648	★	*— A similar pair, slight rust marks.*	350
1649	★	*— A mint single, a tiny black speck near foot.*	180
1650	★	*— Another in very similar condition.*	180

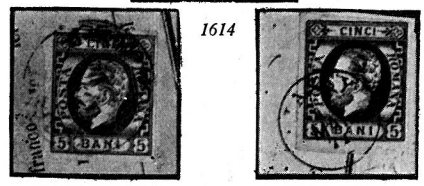
1871 (Dec.) Lithographed, imperforate

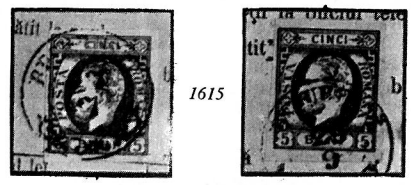
1652	★	*10b. blue and 15b. carmine-red, very fine examples with much original gum.*	140
1657	★	*15b. carmine-red (second printing), examples of seven of the eight types, all very fine and with much original gum.*	550
1658	★	*15b. rose-red and 15b. carmine-red, fine mint.*	175
1659	★	*— A similar lot.*	175
1660	○	*— A similar used lot.*	120
1661	★	*15b. rose-red, a fine mint pair and a single from the top right corner of the sheet.*	250
1662	○⊟	*— A fine block with posthumous violet cancellation, stained at back of lower left corner, very rare. With B.P.A. Certificate.*	600
1664	★	*10b. carmine-red, a superb mint lower left corner copy with huge margins.*	550
1665	△	*— A superb strip, slightly creased by fold at top, tied to piece by "GALATI" c.d.s.*	900
1666	○	*— A fine pair with "BRAILA" c.d.s., the first stamp with a closed tear at foot.*	200
1668	✉	*— A fine example used with the perforated 25b. sepia on an 1872 registered envelope from Roman to Jassy, a rare and pretty combination.*	425

1872 Lithographed, imperforate

White Wove Paper

1677	✉	*— A fine marginal copy tied to entire by a "BRAILA" c.d.s.*	140
1680	★⊞	*50b. red and pale blue, a superb mint block, the two top stamps slightly creased.*	1,200
1681	★	*— A fine mint pair.*	200
1682	★	*50b. red and pale blue, a beautiful corner copy, a tiny natural paper flaw at top and a crease in corner margin.*	300
1683	★	*— A mint marginal copy*	200
1685	○	*— A fine example lightly cancelled in red.*	180
1686	○	*— Another fine and lightly cancelled and 50b. red and ultramarine in similar condition.*	200
1690	★	*50b. red and ultramarine, a superb corner pair which has been heavily mounted and the first stamp has a faint crease.*	425
1691	★	*— A fine mint marginal copy.*	250
1692	★	*— Another marginal copy, not quite so fresh and a tiny thin in lower left corner margin.*	140
1693	★	*— A fine example showing two patches of red colour on the frame.*	180
1695	○	*— Fine examples with blue "CALARASI" and small "ROMAN" c.d.s., the first with Hunziker (1963) Certificate.*	200
1696	△	*— A fine example used on a large piece.*	350
1697	✉	*— Another used on a registered entire, superb and very rare. With A. Diena (1963) and Hunziker (1963) Certificates.*	1,500





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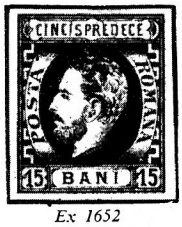

Ex 1652

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1660

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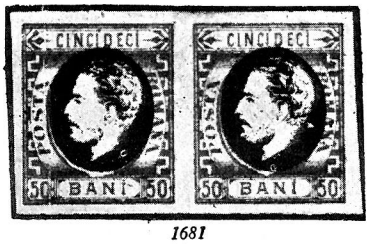


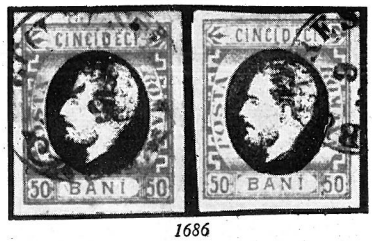
1681

1682

1683

1680

1685



1686

1690

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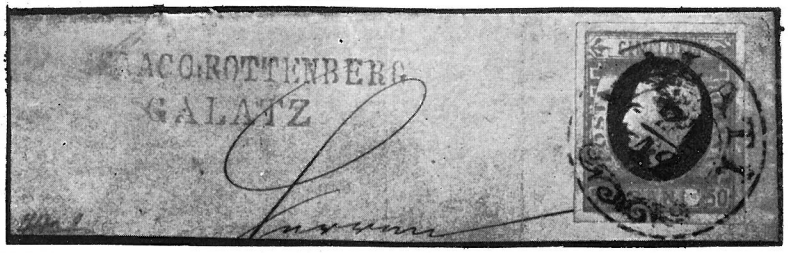
1692

1693

1695



1696

1697

WW I Field Post Markings on Romanian Chaplains' Mail

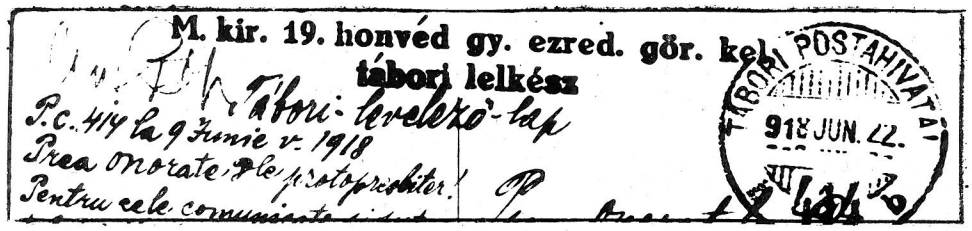
Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

A little known chapter of WW I military postal history deals with the correspondence of Romanian soldiers from Transylvania, Banat and Crișana. Enrolled in the Austro-Hungarian armies, these Romanians fought on various fronts. They were assigned to diverse military units rather than ethnically concentrated ones. The central government did this as it did not want strong well trained military units of any of its ethnic minorities. It feared that such forces might later contribute to the various nationalities' struggles for independence which would ultimately lead to the empire's disintegration.

The empire's well organized and highly functional military postal service (Kaiserlich und Königlich Feldpost) was also extremly complex. Perhaps no other army of that era used such a large number or variety of cancellers, military, administrative, censorship, prisoner-of-war and Red Cross markings. These markings utilized the German or the Hungarian language, though some were bilingual.

Illustrated below are handstamps found on two postcards used in 1918. Both were mailed by Greek Orthodox chaplains. Although from different units, each is addressed to the Romanian Orthodox bishop of Versecz, Timiș County (Today this is part of Yugoslavia).

The majority of Romanians are of the Greek-Orthodox (Eastern Rite) faith. Few other ethnic groups of the former empire share this religious affiliation. Thus, the very fact that chaplains of this denomination were assigned shows a large enough presence of Romanian personnel in front line units to warant their existence.



The first card's two-line marking displays the German text: "Griech orient-Militärseelsorge/des k.u.k. E.G.K. Görz Expositur Cormons" (Greek-Eastern-Military Soulsaver/of the Imperial and Royal Unit in Istria Görz Mail Center Cormons). Gorz (Gorizia) and Cormons are localities situated in North-East Italy. The card also bears a two-line rectangular marking (applied upside-down). This 35 by 18 mm. "von der Armee/in Felde" translates as "from the army in the field".

The other card's two-line Hungarian language marking reads: "M. kir. 19. honvéd gy. ezred. gör. kel./tábori lelkész" (Royal Hungarian 19th 'Honvéd' Infantry Regiment Greek Eastern/Chaplain). This card also shows a double-circle filed post markings, whose diameters measure 30 mm. and 18 mm. Its contents "TABORI POSTAHIVATAL 918 JUN. 22. b 414 b" mean "Field Post Office June 22, 1918 b 414 b".

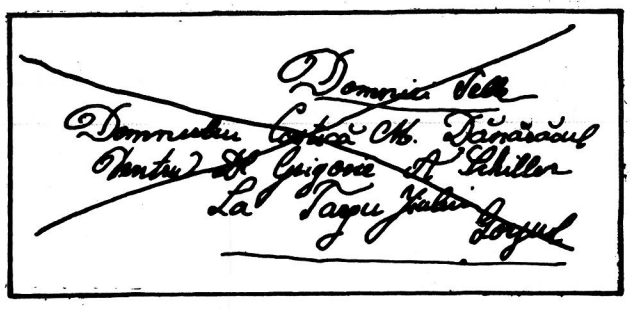
Following WW I, the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell apart. The provinces of Transylvania, Banat and Crișana, with very large Romanian populations, were united with Romania.

MILITARY CENSOR MARKINGS

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Continued from No. 1/1983

Z-101.01



Z-101.03

War of Independence

Z-101.01	QUARTIER GEN. POIANA (Aug. 6, 1877)
Z-101.02	Handwritten attestation by a commanding officer stating that the sender has free franking privileges.
Z-101.03	Red or blue handdrawn "X" attesting as above.

Balkan Wars

Z-201.01	SERVICIUL TELEGRAFIC POSTAL MILITAR (Aug. 27, 1908)
Z-201.02	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/CORP. II/DIV. VII ZO (Aug. 7, 1913)
Z-201.03	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/DIVIZIA/CAVALERIE Z.O. (Aug. 8, 1913)
Z-201.04.01	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/COMAND./ETAPA PRINC. 5 Z.E. (Aug. 15, 1913)
Z-201.04.02	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/COMAND./ETAPA SECUND. 6 Z.E. (June 24, 1913)
Z-201.04.03	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/COMAND./ETAPA SECUND. 13 Z.E. (Aug. 19, 1913)
Z-201.04.04	SERV. TELEGR. POST. MILITAR/COMAND./ETAPA SECUND. 15 Z.E. (Aug 6, 1913-Aug. 15, 1913)

World War I

Z-301.01.01	BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE BUCURESTI (Sept. 18, 1916)
Z-301.01.02	BIUROUL CENTRAL MILITAR DE CARTARE BUCURESTI (June 7, 1919-Aug. 11, 1919)
Z-301.02.01	MARELE CARTIER GENERAL/OF IC. TEL...(Dec. 14, 1916)
Z-301.02.02	OF IC. TEL. POST. MILITAR/CARTIERUL GENERAL ARMATA III (Aug. 23, 1918)
Z-301.03	OFIC. TELEGR. POSTAL/COMAND. TRUPELOR DIN TRANSILVANIA (May 22, 1919)
Z-301.04.01	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA I CAVALERIE (June 8, 1918)
Z-301.04.02.01	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA II CAVALERIE (Aug. 31, 1919)
Z-301.04.02.02	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA II VANATORI (Oct. 20, 1919)
Z-301.04.03	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA III (March 7, 1917)
Z-301.04.04	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA IV (Sept. 11, 1916)
Z-301.04.05.01	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA V (July 5, 1919)
Z-301.04.05.02	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA V (Nov. 11, 1919)
Z-301.04.06	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA VI (Nov. 23, 1917)
Z-301.04.07	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA VII (Sept. 15, 1916-Sept. 13, 1919)
Z-301.04.08	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA VIII (Oct. 8, 1916-Dec. 21, 1917)
Z-301.04.11	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA XI (Sept. 4, 1916-July 2, 1917)
Z-301.04.15	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA XV (Dec. 8, 1916)
Z-301.04.17	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA 17 (March 12, 1921)
Z-301.04.20	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/DIVIZIA 20 (Oct. 30, 1919)
Z-301.05	ETAPELE ARMATEI DE NORD OFICIUL TELEGR. POSTAL No. 2 (Oct. 9, 1916)
Z-301.06	OFIC. TEL. POST MILITAR/BUDA-PESTA (Sept. 7, 1919)

World War II

From the WWII period I found four different types of military markings, with various code numbers, for example:

Z-401.20	OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR/No. 20 (Nov. 11, 1942)
Z-401.21	OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR/No. 21 (July 18, 1941)
Z-401.995	OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR/No. 995 (Oct. 8, 1943)
Z-401.3352	OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR/No. 3352 (July 13, 1944)

To be continued.

Z-201.01

Z-201.02

Z-201.03

Z-201.04.01

Z-201.04.02

Z-201.04.03

Z-201.04.04

Z-301.01.01

Z-301.01.02

Z-301.02.01

Z-301.02.02

Z-301.03

Z-301.04.01

Z-301.04.02.01

Z-301.04.02.02

Z-301.04.03

Z-301.04.04

Z-301.04.05.01

Z-301.04.05.02

Z-301.04.06

Z-301.04.07

Z-301.04.08

Z-301.04.11

Z-301.04.15

Z-301.04.17

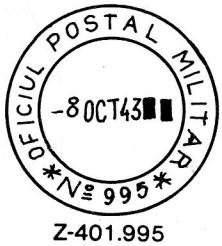
Z-301.04.20

Z-301.05

Z-301.06

Z-401.20

Z-401.21



Z-401.995

Z-401.3352

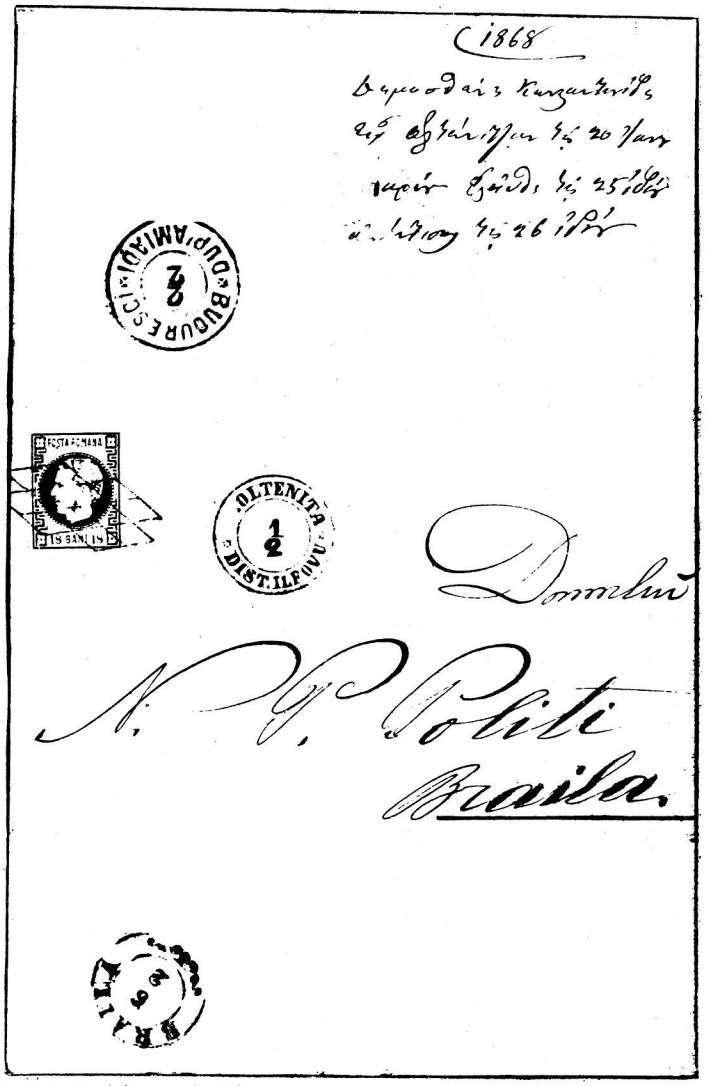
A "FIRST DAY COVER" from 1868

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London NW6 4RX, England

As a result of decimalization, the 1868 lithographic issue, comprising three values, 2, 4 and 18 bani, came into being. Various sources, among them the 1974 Romanian specialized catalogue, state the date these stamps were introduced as 20th January (Julian)/1st February (Gregorian) 1868.

Although a cover in my collection, sent from Oltenița to Brăila, bearing an 18 bani rose stamp, does not contain the original letter, important details can be observed from the customary endorsement by the addressee; the dates of dispatch and arrival upon the postmarks match those superscribed by the recipient. According to the latter, the missive was written in 1868; the Greek text has been translated to me as "Demosthenes Constantinides at Oltenitza the 20 January. Received 25 same. Replied 26 same." (All Julian). The rural-type postmark of origin, in blue ink, is dated 1st February, Bucharest afternoon (DUP'AMIADI) 2nd February, arrival 6th February (all Gregorian). Mr. Constantinides wrote the letter on 20th January, old style; this corresponds with 1st February new style, appearing on the Oltenita datestamp and so this piece of mail illustrates the first day of use of the 18 bani adhesive.

I take this opportunity to mention the case of the rural-type Oltenita datestamp. The asymmetrical position of the word OLTENITA together with the dot before its letter O indicate that the letters PL (short for PLASA) have been excised from the postmark. Obviously, this has happened before 1st February 1868, new style; it would be of interest to ascertain the approximate date this operation was carried out. Noteworthy is the fact that Grigore Racoviceanu, on page 78 of his book, "Stampile Poștale Folosite in Țările Romîne pîna in Anul 1881", when depicting the same marking, shows it with the letters PL added on by hand.



Notice to the Romanian Philatelic Clubs

County chapters of the Philatelists Association of Romania (Filialele Județene A.F.R.) which are missing any issues of the Romanian Philatelic Studies, should send a note to the editor indicating which ones are required. They will receive free copies for their libraries.

Post Office Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal

Arthur Hecker, 112-36 69th Road, Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

During World War II, correspondence between civilians in enemy countries was accomplished by transit through a neutral country. Early in 1940 the British government appointed Thomas Cook & Son as official forwarding agents. The initial service was set up with Amsterdam as the neutral nation transfer point and separate box numbers for transit to and from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and Canada. Although the Amsterdam service has been well documented, only one cover is known as an example of this service.

After the German invasion and conquest of Holland in May 1940, the service was reorganized using Lisbon as the transfer point. Cook also administered this service. Box 506 was used for sending mail to and from Great Britain and it is probable that other Lisbon box numbers were used for the other territories previously serviced in Amsterdam. Box 520 Lisbon appears to have been used for Australia. Twenty one countries in occupied Europe were permitted use of this scheme. This service was extensively used, with 278,084 letters reportedly sent to Europe and 151,980 replies reported received as of the end of 1943.

Although many letters were transmitted few have survived or been recognized for what they are. For some of the participating countries no covers are known to survive while others show only very small representation. Covers to Europe are even rarer than those from Europe. Only one cover demonstrating the complete inward journey to occupied Europe is known.

Below are the instructions given in the leaflet prepared for those wishing to attempt to correspond with friends and family at addresses in enemy territory.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

Persons wishing to communicate with enemy or enemy occupied territory are informed that at the present time no letter of this nature can be forwarded except through an authorized intermediary.

As announced in the press, authority to act as intermediary has been granted to Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, Berkely Street, London, W.C.1, from whom all information can be obtained.

Remittances or business correspondence cannot be dispatched without license from the Trading with the Enemy Branch, Treasury and Board of Trade, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.1.

In July 1940, British newspapers published a set of regulations entitled "Notes for persons wishing to communicate with friends in Enemy Countries, or Territory in the occupation of the Enemy". These rules were repeated and slightly changed over the years. We present below, in their entirety, the 1943 regulations:

1943 REGULATIONS

Conditions under which letters may be sent to relatives or friends in Enemy Countries or Enemy-occupied Territory.

The territories included in these arrangements are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, (zone left unoccupied by the enemy in 1940), Germany, Greece (mainland), Greek Islands and Crete, Holland, Hungary, Italy and Italian possessions not occupied by the United Nations, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Roumania and Yugoslavia.

1. Communications must be clearly written or typed on plain, unwatermarked stationery, and should not exceed two sides of a normal-sized sheet of notepaper. Only one letter may be placed in each envelope. Erasures, corrections, mutilated stationery or additions by other people are not permitted.

2. Letters and envelopes must omit the senders address. They may be in English or in the language of the country for which they are intended. They must refer only to matters of personal interest and must NOT refer to matters relating to money, business or other property, whereever situated. (See para. 6)

(a) No reference may be made to any town (other than Lisbon), village, locality, ship, journey, Censorship. Service matters, results of enemy action or any other phase of the war, or to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd, or any of their offices, or to the means by which the letter is sent. No enclosures are permitted. No indication may be given that the writer is not in Portugal.

(b) Mention of a letter or postcard received from, or written to, enemy or enemy occupied territory is not permitted. it is suggested that the word 'news' or 'message' be used instead, but the date of such message must not be given. Mention of a 'Red Cross Message' is not permitted.

3. Each letter must be placed in an open unstamped envelope (without water-mark, brand mark or makers name) fully inscribed to the adressee, who should be asked to address any reply to your full name, care of Post Box 506, LISBON, Portugal. Poste Restante addressees are not accepted. The use of titles or Naval, Military or Air Force rank is forbidden. The Lisbon Post Box must not be mentioned on the envelope.

4. The open envelope containing the letter should be placed in an outer stamped envelope and sent to THOS. COOK & SON, LTD., BERKELEY STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1, together with a memorandum plainly written, containing in BLOCK LETTERS the name (Christian name first) and full address of the sender. A married woman should give her own as well as her husband's initials.

5. The communication to Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., must enclose Postal Order, value 2s. (Stamps or international coupons cannot be accepted) which fee will cover the postage of one envelope containing one communication to the neutral country, and from the neutral country to the addressee, also of a reply (if any) from the neutral to Messrs Cook's Head Office in London, and from that office to the intend recipient. The fee does not include the cost of postage of the reply from enemy territory to the neutral country.

For an extra fee of 6d. each, letters can be sent by Air Mail between London and Lisbon. Envelopes must not be endorsed 'Airmail'.

Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., undertakes this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part or on the part of any person or agent employed by them.

6. Business letters and letters containing directions about property or money matters must not be sent to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., but should be submitted by the sender to the Trading with the Enemy Department of the Treasury and Board of Trade, 24 Kingsway, London, W.C.1.

7. Communications for Prisoners of War, i.e., British and Allied Naval, Military, and Air Force prisoners and Civilian internees, cannot be sent under the foregoing arrangements. They should be posted in accordance withe regulations of which particulars may be obtained at any Post Office.

Parcels cannot be dealt with under the foregoing scheme.

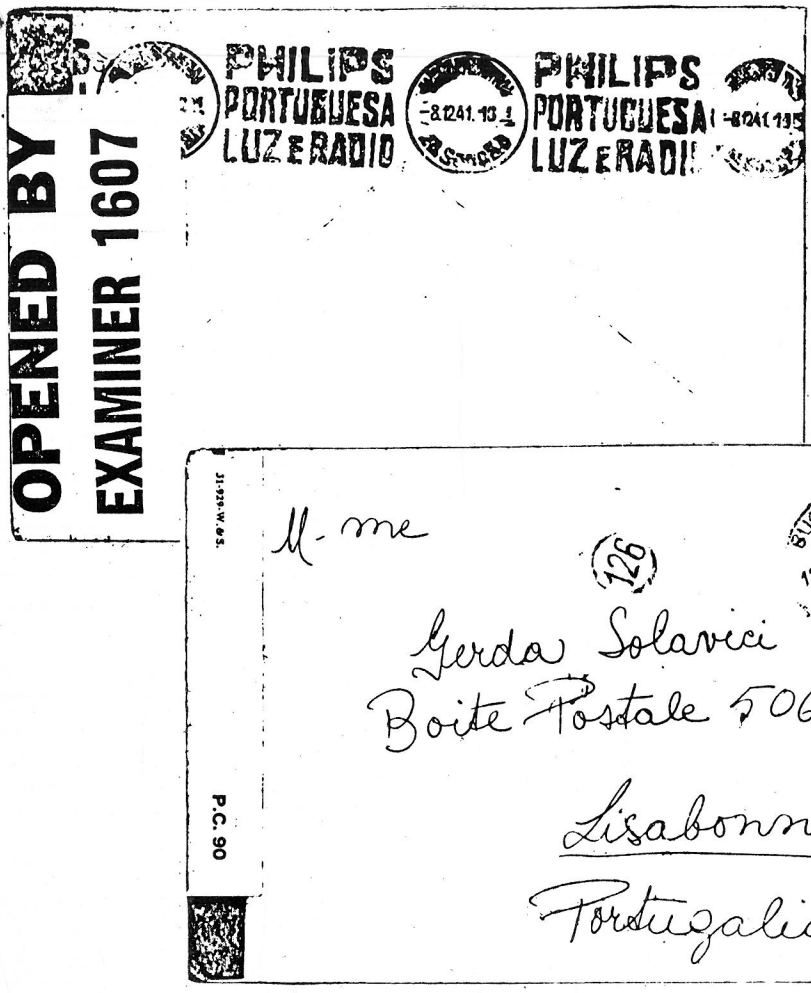
Unless these directions are followed EXACTLY, delay and extra expense will result. These notes covey ALL information available.

A.E. Gilbert's "Post Box 506, Lisbon, Correspondence in World War II", published in "Stamp Collecting" (Dec. 21, 1978) gives a great deal of information regarding this unusual mail handling.

When a letter, respecting the above rules, was received by Thos. Cook in London, it would be sent to British examiners. They would censor it, seal the cover and return it to Cook. No censor marking was applied in order to avoid disclosing the source. The letter, with many other similarly handled letters, was forwarded to Cook's branch office in Lisbon, Portugal. Transmission was generally by ship, but, as stated in paragraph 5 of the above regulations, for an additional fee the letter could be sent by air mail. In Lisbon, the sealed cover would receive Portuguese stamps and be mailed to the address in enemy territory as indicated by the sender, according to paragraph 3. This way, there was never any indication that the letter had originated anywhere but in neutral Portugal.

As per par. 3, addressees were asked to send answers to Post Office Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal, which was Thos. Cook's cover address. Mail arriving at this box was picked up by a Cook Travel Agency employee and sent to Cook's London office. From there, it was forwarded to the British examiners, where the letters were censored, handstamped and sealed with censor tape. They were then returned to Cook to be forwarded to the addresses in Great Britain.

The German authorities must have known about the "Box 506, Lisbon" scheme but not until 1943 (by when their military situation had worsened) did they start to return mail addressed to Box 506 Lisbon. They sometimes enclosed a printed warning saying that "....all communications with an enemy foreign coun-



try is punishable...".

Romania is listed among those countries with which the British regulations allowed correspondence. The period of availability of this service is known to be from Dec. 1941 to Aug. 1944 (as on Aug. 23, 1944, Romania broke its alliance with Germany and joined the Allies).

Only one cover mailed from Romania to "Box 506 Lisbon" is known so far. This cover was franked with a 20 Lei, King Michael definitive, obliterated with a "BUCURESTI I SOSIRE" postal marking dated "12 NOV 941". It is interesting that a "SOSIRE" (arrival) marking, rather that a departure marking was used. This could be due to the wartime confusion. The cover bears a censor marking, the number "126" in a 13 mm. circle. The Portuguese arrival marking (back stamp), dated "8.12.41.10" (Dec. 8, 1941, 10 AM), contains a publicity slogan reading "PHILIPS/PORTUGUESA/ LUZ E RADIO" (Portuguese Philips Light and Radio). The letter was censored by the British censor. He sealed the envelope with a tape reading "OPENED BY EXAMINER 1607". It took 4 weeks for the communication to get from Buchrest to Lisbon.

Collectors should check their covers as well as dealers' stocks for other covers franked with Romanian stamps, sent during World War II to "Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal". If they find any, the philatelic press would greatly appreciate their reports.

Letters from England to Romania using this scheme would have normal Portuguese franking. Thus, they could only be recognized if they bore a return address of "Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal".

Counterfeit Scott #421 of 1932.

George Pataki

In "Originals and Counterfeits of the 'First Moldavian Stamps 75th Anniversary' Issue", published in Romanian Philatelic Studies No.2/1980, we described and illustrated originals and counterfeits of 6 out of the 7 stamps. Recently, Mr. C.M. Trevers of Australia sent us a note and illustrations, proving that the 25 Bani stamps (Scott #421, Michel #450, Gibbons #1268) has also been counterfeited. This fake, being very poorly made, shows both the lettering and the central design (star, bull's head and postal horn) to be carelessly sketched. It seems that this particular item was made by a less expert forger that those presented in the aforementioned article. Mr. Trevers note did not mention whether this counterfeit was on watermarked paper as the previously reported ones are.

We must repeat the concluding paragraph of the article: "We caution readers that stamps not resembling the counterfeits presented above which also do not match the characteristics of the originals

ORIGINAL

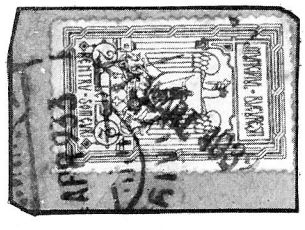
COUNTERFEIT

should be considered counterfeits. When more that one counterfeit of forgery has been produced of a certain stamp, describing one of them could be misleading".

More on the Revenue Stamp for the Unemployed

Mircea Teleguț

In "Another Revenue Stamp for the Unemployed", published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No.1/1983, we presented a Bucharest issued revenue stamp to collect funds for the unemployed. That label bears a four-line, black overprint. It was found affixed on cover along with the postage and a "Timbrul Aviației" stamp.



Recently I found the same label reading "MUNICIPIUL BUCURESTI, 2 LEI 2 PENTRU SOMERI", but without the overprint. The label bears a handstamp dated "27 MART. 1932" but it was cancelled in "BUCURESTI GRIVITA" ON "4 APR 933". Similar revenue labels were issued also by other municipalities.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

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STAMPS FOR THE ROMANIAN OCCUPATION OF POKUTIA

By: Stanley Kronenberg

Reprinted from THE UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST
Vol.30, 1983, No.46

Pokutia, the part of Western Ukraine around Kolomyia, became a hotly contested territory shortly after the end of World War I. A most complicated war was taking place with the Ukrainians, Poles and the Russian Bolsheviks fighting among each other for the possession of these lands. On May 26, 1919, after the Ukrainian Army left this area, the Eighth Division of the Romanian Army moved in and occupied Pokutia. This occupation lasted until August 21, 1919 when the Romanians left this region and the Polish Military moved in. Pokutia then became a part of Poland until the beginning of World War II. At the end of World War II, it became a part of the Soviet Ukraine and is thus under the rule of the Soviet Union.

Mail Service Under the Romanian Occupation:

Immediately after the Romanians moved in there was no postal service available to private persons, only Romanian military mail was transported through Romanian military channels. On June 12, 1919, Romanian Army Major Turbatu came to Kolomyia and officially opened the postal service for private persons. He brought with him a small number of Romanian stamps for this purpose. Two days later he brought newly issued occupational stamps which were overprinted obsolete Austrian stamps (ref. 1). These overprints were made by means of three different metal overprinting devices which were ordered in Chernivtsi (ref. 2): "C.M.T." (the abbreviation for Romanian: "Comandementul Militar Teritorial" - Territorial Military Command), with new denominations in Austrian Heller and Kronen, all surrounded by rectangular frames. 40 H, 60 H, and 1 K 20 H denomination overprints were made singly by hand with dark violet blue ink. Figure 1 shows the three kinds of overprints and Table 1 lists the 13 values of originally overprinted stamps and their numbers issued according to references 3 and 4. Depending on the source, the reported numbers of issued stamps vary significantly and the collector has difficulty in determining the rarity of these stamps.

According to my observations, the rarest stamp is No. 10. Also rare are numbers: 8, 11, 12 and 13. The remaining stamps occur with approximately equal frequency and are more often seen then the five stamps mentioned above. All stamps of this issue are uncommon and elusive. On original correspondence, particularly on nonphilatelic covers, they are indeed rarities.

Stamps of this issue were used in the following post offices: Deliatyn, Horodenka, Kolomyia, Lanchyn, Obertyn, Pechenizhyn, Sniatyn and Zabolotiv. They were cancelled with Austrian town name cancellations.

Second Edition Overprints:

In addition to the thirteen original values more overprinted stamps were made exclusively for philatelic purposes. Table II lists these stamps. In the literature they are considered reprints. It is difficult to agree with this classification because all overprinting was done apparently during the Romanian occupation while the overprinted stamps were still in use. Describing them as "second edition" appears to be more appropriate. The overprint ink is the same as in the case of originally overprinted stamps and everything points to the fact that both editions were made by the same persons connected with the local postal service. More stamps of denominations listed in the first edition (Table I) were also overprinted with this second party of stamps. They cannot be distinguished and therefore I did not repeat their listing in Table II. This state of affairs may possibly be the reason for the very large discrepancies in the listings of numbers issued (Table I), Boehm having included stamps of both editions. Some of these later overprinted stamps have had some postal use or at least some token postal use, possibly arranged by the proprietors of these stamps to give them philatelic respectability. For example, I have seen stamp Numbers 39 and 40 on pieces of covers with genuine cancellations of Kolomyia and Sniatyn respectively. Few other stamps occur off paper, cancelled to order with original cancellations.

Other overprints were made by means of original metal overprinting devices but with different inks: black, violet, red and green. Some collectors consider these stamps "proofs" but abuse for philatelic purposes is more likely to have been the motivation. Eventually the three overprinting devices were officially destroyed (Ref. 2).

Forgeries:

Forgeries of these overprints do exist but are not often seen. Their main common characteristic is the difference in the overprint ink. The genuine ink was dark violet blue, it always soaked through the paper and can always be seen on the reverse of these stamps. In forged overprints, the inks vary, most frequently forgeries are in violet ink which does not soak through the paper.

Figure 2 shows a forged 60 H overprint made in violet ink. Dimensions of its frame agree well with genuine 60 H overprints but note that the lines forming the sides of "M" are not parallel to each other while they are parallel in genuine overprints, the left side of "C" is curved, it is a straight line in genuine overprints.

Figure 3 illustrates a forgery made with a dull black ink. While its overall overprint dimensions are close to the originals, the left leg of "M" is slanted to the right assuming the top of the "M" as the pivot point.

In conclusion, the Romanian Occupational Issue for Pokutia is still partially shrouded in mystery and will probably remain so because of the lack of documentary materials. All of these stamps are rare and appear to be undervalued in catalogues as they are not popular with collectors.

One should keep in mind that these stamps are witnesses to a long ago forgotten war which is rarely mentioned in history books and are a documentation of a violent period in that part of Europe.

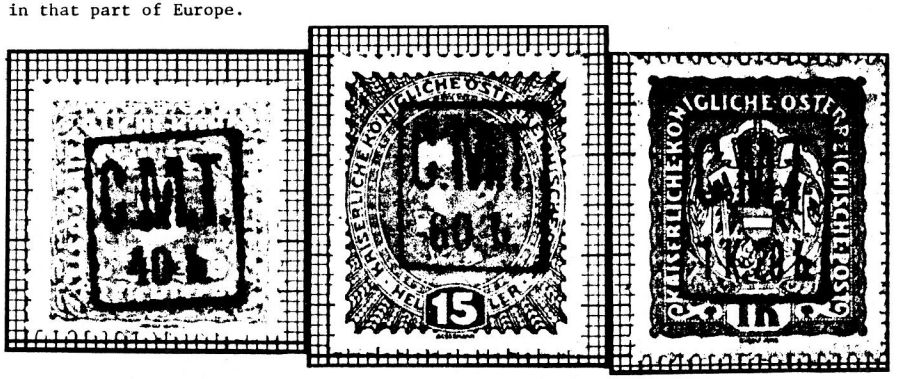

Figure 1: The three "C.M.T." overprints. The background grid is in millimeters to make possible the determination of overprint dimensions. Photographed through a filter to subdue the background.

Figure 2: An example of a forged overprint (60H/15H postage due, Nr 41) imprinted with violet ink.

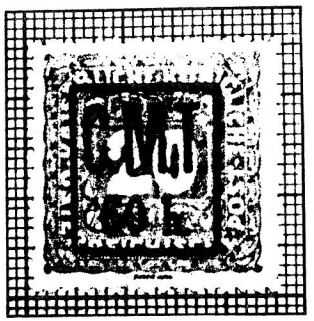

Figure 3: An example of a forged overprint (60H/20H postage due, Nr 43) imprinted with a dull black ink.

Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint, Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.		Number Issued According to Boehm (Ref. 3)	Number Issued According to Cherniavsky (Ref. 4)
	REGULAR STAMPS			
1.	40 H/5 H Light Green	146	16044	8
2.	60 H/15 H Red Brown	168	14589	4500
3.	60 H/20 H Green	169	68307	16000
4.	60 H/25 H Blue	170	6313	3200
5.	60 H/30 H Gray Violet	171	5237	2600
6.	1 K 20 H/50 H Dark Green	155	15094	2600
7.	1 K 20 H/60 H Dark Blue	156	7650	40
8.	1 K 20 H/1 K Red on Yellow	159	2662	820
	POSTAGE DUE STAMPS			
9.	40 H/5 H Red	J 49	9565	800
10.	1 K 20 H/25 H Carmine	J 41	83	118
11.	1 K 20 H/25 H Red	J 53	300	120
12.	1 K 20 H/30 H Red	J 54	872	15
13.	1 K 20 H/50 H/42 H Brown	J 63	-	15

Table 1: Listing of originally overprinted "C.M.T." stamps according to references 2, 3 and 4.

Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint, Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.		Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.	
	REGULAR STAMPS				
14.	40 H/3 H Lilac	112	26.	60 H/10 H Lilac Red	148
15.	40 H/3 H Violet	145	27.	60 H/12 H Green Blue	149
16.	40 H/6 H Orange	147	28.	60 H/40 H Olive Green	154
17.	40 H/10 H Lilac Red	148	29.	60 H/50 H Dark Green	155
18.	40 H/12 H Green Blue	149	30.	60 H/60 H Dark Blue	156
19.	40 H/15 H Red Brown	168	31.	60 H/1 K Red on Yellow	159
20.	40 H/20 H Dark Green	169	32.	1 K 20 H/3 H Violet	145
21.	40 H/25 H Blue	170	33.	1 K 20 H/5 H Yellow Green	146
22.	40 H/40 H Olive Green	154	34.	1 K 20 H/15 H Brown Red	168
23.	60 H/3 H Violet	145	35.	1 K 20 H/25 H Dark Blue	170
24.	60 H/5 H Yellow Green	146	36.	1 K 20 H/80 H Red Brown	157
25.	60 H/6 H Orange	147	37.	1 K 20 H/90 H Lilac Red	158
	POSTAGE DUE STAMPS				
38.	40 H/10 H Red	J 50	44.	60 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62
39.	40 H/15/36 H Violet	J 61	45.	60 H/1 K Ultramarine	J 57
40.	40 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62	46.	1 K 20 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62
41.	60 H/15 H Red	J 51	47.	1 K 20 H/40 H Red	J 55
42.	60 H/15/36 H Violet	J 61	48.	1 K 20 H/50 H Red	J 56
43.	60 H/20 H Red	J 52	49.	1 K 20 H/1 K Ultramarine	J 57

Table II: Listing of stamps of the second edition. Additional few values may exist but I did not see them.

REFERENCES:

1. John Bulat, "Illustrated Postage Stamp History of Western Ukrainian Republic 1918-1919", Philatelic Publications, Yonkers, New York, 1973, Pages 43 and 44.

2. O. G. Boehm, "Die Briefmarken Der Rumanischen Besetzung in Ostgalizien (Pokutien)", Die Postmarke, 1934, pages 34-36.

3. A. Laszkiewicz, "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", "Ikaros" 1935, pages 264 and 265.

4. J. Czerniawski, "Rumunskie Wydanie Okupacyjne Dla Pokucia", Bibl. Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistuczny, Kolomyia, 1934, page 21.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

In his publications with the C.M.T. issues, Dr. I. Cherniavsky refers to the "Second Edition Overprints" as speculative issues, not overprints. On page 74 of "Notes On the C.M.T. Stamps Issued During the Romanian Occupation of Pokutia", he states: "It is true that such surcharges were performed with the authentic handstamps, but not under the orders of the relevant authorities and they were done at times when further production of the C.M.T. occupation stamps was inadmissible. Thence, all surcharges with the exception of the 13 (thirteen) officially issued kinds noted above should be regarded as speculative".

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

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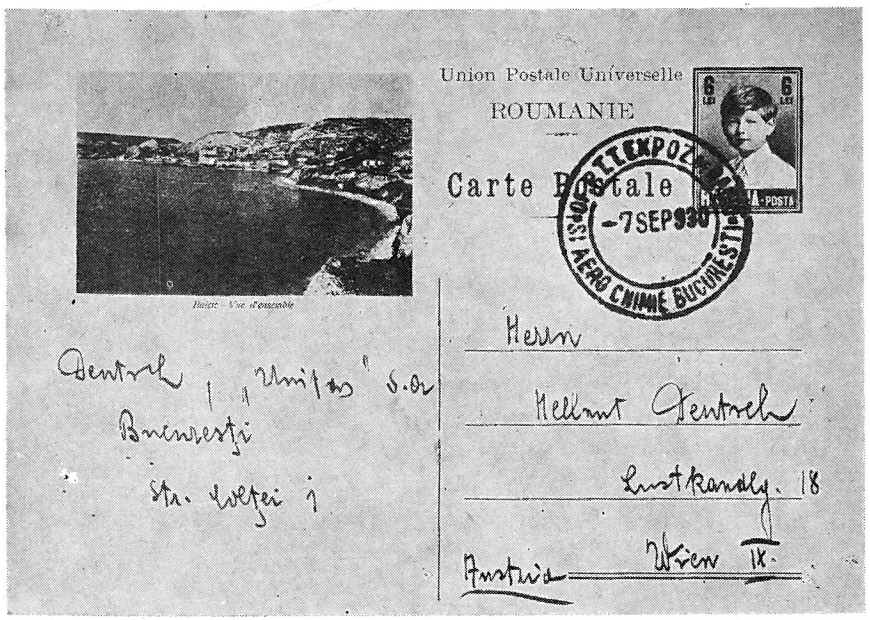
Minkus: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, ROMANIA.

In our No.3/1982 issue we reviewed this Minkus sectional catalogue. We inform our readers that this excellent work is still available for $9.95. Order from Minkus Publications, Inc., at their new address, 41 West 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.



A card from 1928 set.

Romanian Postal Cards with Views

By George Pataki

Reprinted from S.P.A. JOURNAL SEPTEMBER, 1983

Romania issued its first postal card in June of 1873. In 1899, two postal cards (H&G 35, 35a) with colored drawings and greetings on the back appeared. The first view postal cards, issued in 1928, show imprinted 6-lei postage indicia in the upper right corner and a photographic illustration at the upper left. The imprinted stamp, identical in design with Scott illustration number A73 (Gibbons 64), portrays the young King Michael. These cards, measuring 147 by 105 mm., were printed in reddish brown on white to cream cardboard. As they were intended for international use, the French three-line heading reads: "Union Postale Universelle/ ROUMANIE/ Carte Postale" (Universal Postal Union/ Romania/ Postal Card). On the 25 such cards issued, some of the views are oriented horizontally, others vertically. The set of cards was printed in sheets of 25 (5 rows of 5 cards). These were then cut down to individual items. Higgins & Gage gives #82 for any one card and #82a for the complete series of 25. Michel uses P82 as its number, while the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 assigns to them #CP.94.

The captions in French are as follows:

Le couvent de la grotte Ialomitza
Le mont Negoiul — Hauteur 2554 m.
Vatra Dornei — Le Casino
Le mont Surul
Le ministère des affaires étrangères.
L'Athenée roumaine.
Le Caisse de dépôts et consignations — Bucarest.
Le palais de la poste
Les monts Făgăraș — Le lac "Călțun"

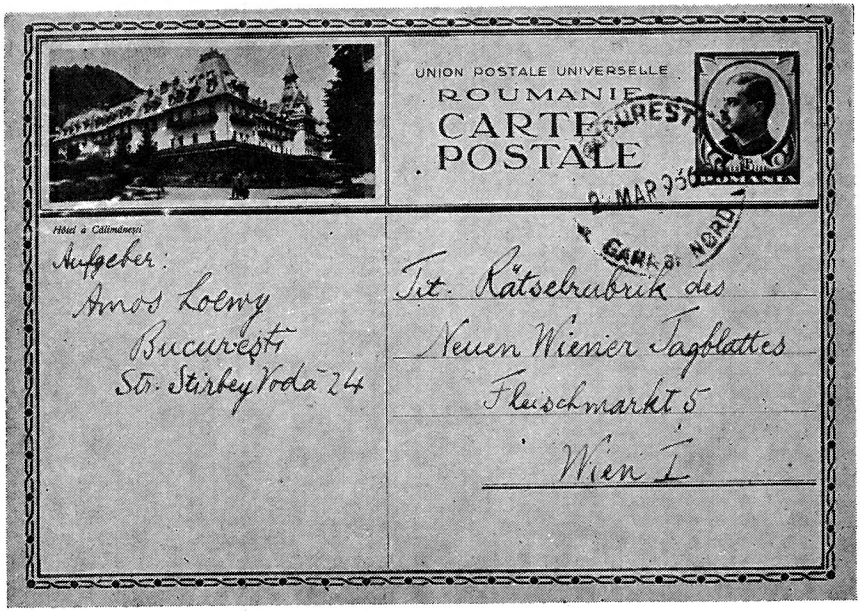
A card from the 1932 set.

Călimănești — Căciulata-Hôtel
Constantza — Le casino et le boulevard
Le Musée militaire — Bucarest.
La fondation universitiare "Carol" — Bucarest
Les bains de Tușnad
La douane de la poste.
Le palais de la "Jeunesse Roumaine" — Bucarest.
Govora — Hôtel Palace.
Balcic. Vue d'ensemble
Le ministère des travaux publics.
L'Université — Bucarest.
Constantza — les silos de céréales
L'Eglise Zlatari — Bucarest.
Le Cercle militaire — Bucarest.
Les sondes de Moreni
Les bains d'Ocna Sibiului

On the 1932 set of 16 postal cards with views the imprinted stamp portrays King Carol II facing the viewer's right. This stamp is the same in design as the illustration numbered by Scott as A88 (Gibbons 73). These cards also measure 147 by 105 mm. The same French heading appears but is on four lines: "Union Postale Universelle/ Roumanie/ CARTE-/ POSTALE". The cards have double frames. An ornamental frame surrounds the inner frame which consists simply of straight lines. The printing is in sepia on cream cardboard. The whole set was printed in sheets of 16 (4 rows of 4 cards), then cut down to individual cards. H&G gives #93 for individual cards and #93a for the complete set while Michel's number is P88 and the R.P.S.C.'s is CP.100.

The captions in French are as follows:

Vue de Bușteni
Les bains d'Ocna Sibiului



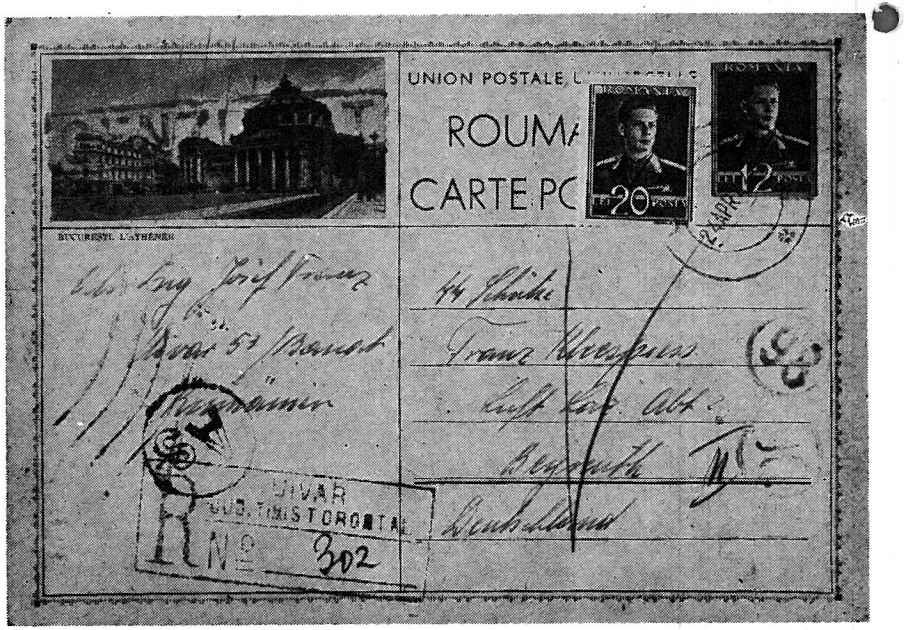
A card from the 1934 set.

Palace Hôtel à Sinaia
Vue de Călimănești
Le Casino de Constanta.
Le château-fort de Râșnov
Hôtel à Călimănești
Musée militaire du Parc Carol à Bucarest
Sondes dans la région petrolifère Moreni
Le château-fort d'Hotin
Hôtel Palace à Govora.
Croix sur le Caraiman
Salines de Uioara
Le Danube à Cazane
Le château de Bran
Le château "Peleș" à Sinaia

Some of the sites illustrated on the 1928 cards were used again for the 1932 cards. Thus the Palace Hotel in Govora, the Bucharest Military Museum, the hotel in Călimănești, the oil fields of Moreni, the casino of Constantza and the Ocna Sibiului spas all appear once more, although shown from a different angle.

In 1934, a further set of 16 cards for international use, very similar to those of 1932, was issued. These differ only in that they show a new type of a 6-lei imprinted stamp. This design, portraying King Carol II looking to the viewer's left, was not used on adhesive stamp. Again, this entire set was printed in sheets of 16 (4 rows of 4 cards), then separated down to individual items. H&G uses #94 for any of the above cards and #94a for the complete set. Michel's number is P96, while the R.P.S.C. number is CP. 102. The illustrations in the upper left corner, the captions under them, the heading, layout, lettering, frame and color are identical to those found on the 1932 cards.

A new set of 14 postal cards with views was issued in 1942 for international use. They bear a 12-lei imprinted stamp portraying a three-



A card from the 1942 set.

quarters bust of King Michael facing the viewer's right. The design of this imprinted stamp is identical to the illustration numbered by Scott at A175 (Gibbons 145). While the card size and the textual heading match those on the 1932 and 1934 issues, the lettering, layout and the outer ornamental frame differ. The printing ranges in color from dark red to brownish red. The paper is yellowish, and can be found in various thicknesses. The H&G number 105 applies for any one card and 105a for a complete set. Michel's assigns P113 and the R.P.S.C. CP.110. Interestingly, none of the Romanian catalogues illustrate these postal cards and those of 1928 because their printed stamps portray the former King Michael.

The captions in French are as follows:

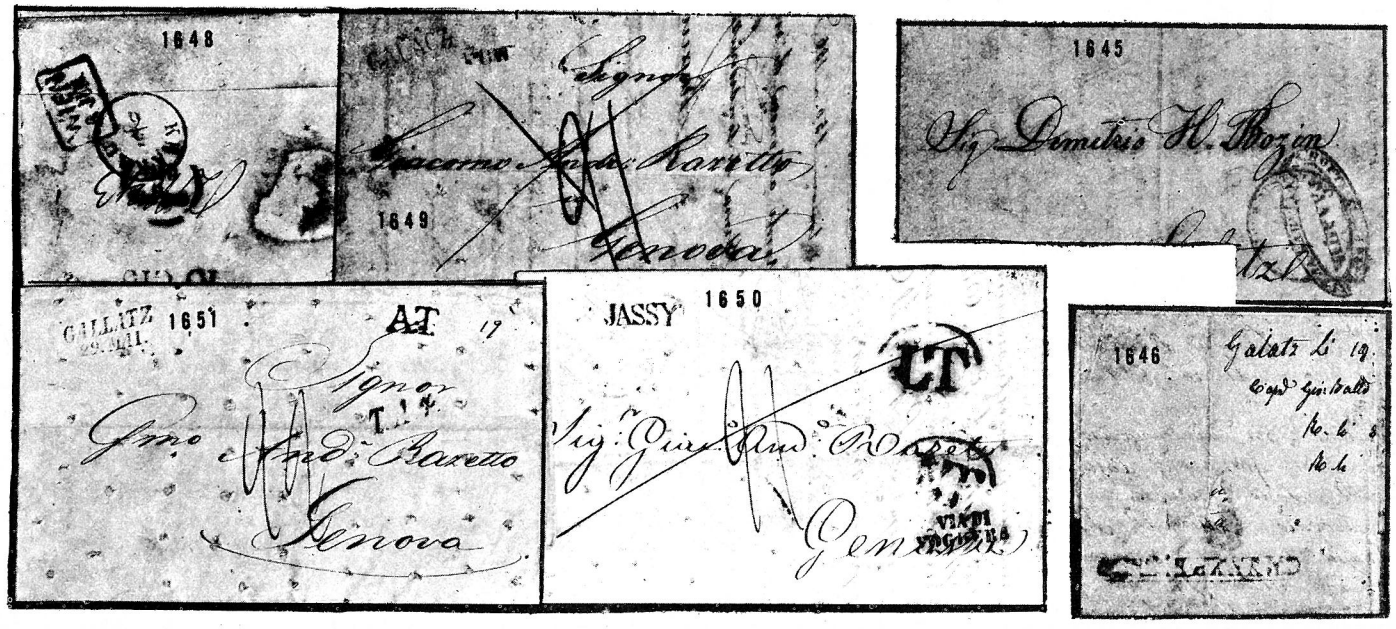
Sinaia, Le château Peleș
București, Le palais royal
București, L'Athénée
Ploiești. Blé et petrole
Lac de Snagov
Monastère Sucevitza
Bucuresti. Le parc Carol I-er
Monàstere Curtea-de-Argeș
Moulins a vents en Besserabie
L'Ile Adah-Kaleh sur le Danube
Vue des monts Apuseni
Moreni. Puits de petrole
Industrie pétrolifère a Ploiești
Constanta. Le casino

All the above were issued for international use. The 1942 issue is often found with additional adhesives as postage rates changed frequently due to the war-time inflation.

Because each entire set was printed together in sheets (except for the 1942 issue), the same number of each individual card type within a set exists. Thus, all cards of a given issue possess the same scarcity factor. As the 12-lei rate did not last long, the 1942 issue turns out to be the scarcest. Furthermore, as the 1932 issue remained in use for only about two years, the cards of the 1928 and 1934 issues are more common.

ROMANIA

Lot		Description	Reference	Evaluation
		DISINFECTED MAIL OF MOLDAVIA		
1645	✉	**1852** Letter from a Greek merchant in Constantinople, dated Nov. 4, to Galatz, with green oval *PORTULU SAU CURATIT AA CAPITANIA/GALATI* cachet of the disinfection office of the harbor master at Galatz, struck over light impression of oval *AGENZIA DE LLOYD AUSTRIACO CONSTANTINOPOLI,* fine rastel perforations, f-vf.	PHOTO Meyer #IA1; Dragomir #K-44	$150
1646	✉	**1843** Letter dated Galatz Nov. 19, to Genoa, on flap boxed *SAU KURATAT* (it has been cleaned) cachet of the Galatz quarantine and numerous fine rastel holes; on front red Austrian hs *FRANCO GRENZE* (paid to the border), red *CT* and Genova bkst, vf.	PHOTO Meyer #IA2; Dragomir #K-33	$150
1648	✉	**1831** Italics *GALATZ 26. MAI* of the Austrian Consular P.O. on letter bkst Genoa, hs *A.T.* and red *T.A.4.*, on rev script *Czernowitz 1 JUN.* transit, where fumigated with fine rastel holes, further certified by *RN. 43* (Reinigungs Nummer) in manuscript on flap, Krakau and Wien transits, vf.	PHOTO Meyer #II	$90
1649	✉	**1838** *GALACZ* on letter to Genoa dated Mar. 28, lightly browned and with moderate rastel holes from fumigation at Czernowitz, certified by ms *RN. 28* on flap, bkst, f-vf.	PHOTO Meyer #II	$75
1650	✉	**1841** Letter dated Galatz Aug. 16 to Genoa, *JASSY* on front in transit, then via Czernowitz where fumigated with rastel perforations, further certified by ms *RN. 70* on flap; 2 red *LT* and red *VIA DI VOGHERA,* bkst, vf.	PHOTO Mey. #II	$75
1651	✉	**1845** Letter dated Braila May 29 with italics *GALLATZ 29. MAI.* in transit, numerous heavy rastel holes from disinfection at Czernowitz further certified by ms *RN. 44* on flap, hs *A.T.* (Austrian transit) and red *T.A.4.*, bkst, vf.	PHOTO Mey. #II	$75
1652	✉	**1853** *GALLATZ 16. MAI* italics pmk of the Austrian Consular P.O. on letter bkst Genoa, red *T.A.4.*, on rev transit cds of Pesth and Laibach and ms certification of disinfection somewhere along the way *Geräuchert den 21 Mai 1853;* while Meyer (p.127) was uncertain of exactly where it took place, because he was certain of the route such letters travelled, he included such types in the section dealing with Czernowitz, even though they did not bear the usual ms *RN.* markings; vf.	PHOTO Meyer #II	$90
1653	✉	**1853** Blue *IBRAILA GEN. 17.* on letter with red Triest bkst, on flap *CZERNOWITZ 23 JAN.* sunburst transit cds, where disinfected with numerous fine rastel holes, on flap ms *RM 7* and Krakow transit cds also, vf.	PHOTO Mey. #II	$90
1654	✉	**1857** Blue *JASSY 13/10* cds of the Austrian Consular P.O. on entire to Leipzig via Myslowitz and Krakau, with 14 rastel punch holes believed by Meyer to be from decontamination at Jassy, vf.		$50
1655	✉	**1841 Letter from Jassy via Sculani to Kishinev, Bessarabia, in Russian and Greek, to the Boyar Councilor Kostaki Balsh, on rev *ЯССЫ 13Ю Н 1841* pmk, opened at Sculani, fumigated and resealed with red wax Arm seal of Russian eagle inscr *ПЕЧ ПРАВСКЧИПИ НСКАГОЦЕНТР КАРАНТИНА* (Seal of Administration of the Sculani Central Quarantine), discovered by Meyer after publication of his book, with the original enlarged drawing made for him by Bainbridge Studio, Bristol for a planned Addendum, plus large photo of the drawing; very rare, vf.**	**PHOTO Meyer #III**	**$300**
		DISINFECTED MAIL OF WALACHIA		
1656	✉	**1830 Letter in Romanian script fumigated at Giurgevo, with large round negative Eagle cachet with Cyrillic *DREKZIA KARANTINA GIURGIU 1830,* very rare, Meyer's sole example, with original drawing of the cachet made for him, vf.**	**PHOTO Meyer #II**	**$250**
1657	—	**1830** Health pass issued and certified by the Quarantine Station at Zimnicea with round negative seal with Walachian Eagle and *DREKZIA KARANTINA ZIMNICEA,* the pass soiled from being carried on the traveller's person, but the seal clear and vf.	PHOTO Meyer #V	$150
1658	✉	**1852** *BUKAREST 20. JAN.* of the Austrian Consular P.O. on letter bkst Paris, boxed *T.A.* (Transit Autrichienne)and red *AUTR. VALnes 2 FEVR 52* cds, on rev transit cds of Hermannstadt in Transylvania, where Meyer believed the fumigation evidenced by 12 small rastel holes was performed, vf.	PHOTO	$75
1659	✉	**A cover discovered by Meyer after publication, with address in the Cyrillic characters derived by the Romanians from Greek and Russian, which, despite the efforts of linguists whose assistance Meyer obtained, remained untranslated; on rev over letterjoin a red wax seal with upper half clearly imprinted with Walachian Eagle inscr *КАРАНТІНА КАЛАФА* certifying disinfection at Calafat on the Danube opposite Widdin, Bulgaria (suggesting the cvr might have been inbound to Bucharest), considered by Meyer as unique, fresh, vf.**	**PHOTO**	**$300**



1660 ✉ **DISINFECTED MAIL OF TRANSYLVANIA 1822 Private letter from one N. Petrescu in Targu Jiu to Glogoveanu (believed by Meyer to be Glogow in Silesia), which travelled through Vulcan Pass, lightly browned on rev from disinfection there and resealed with red wax seal with Hungarian Arms with large chain and Order of the Golden Fleece, inscr *VUL(CAN);* on front excellent Arms cachet with italics *SIGILLUM SANITATIS;* the unique example discovered by Meyer after publication, vf, with translation of the letter into French, a photo of the letter, and enlarged photo of the seal.** PHOTO **$360**

PRINCIPALITIES OF MOLDAVIA AND WALACHIA POSTAL HISTORY DOCUMENTS

1661 **CARRIER FEE RECEIPTS 1859** Receipt for 21L15pa in ms for carriers fee, lovely negative circular seal in lamp black with eagle and coach illus inscribed in cyrillic *POSTA BUZEU 1846* (the year of the contract), signed HEIMBUGHLER-BPP, exceptional condition for these fragile markings, vf. PHOTO $180

1662 **1859** Manuscript postal receipt for carrier fee of 57Lei from Krajova with lovely blue negative seal of the postmaster of Kaineni showing eagle and coach, rare and attractive, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. PHOTO $120

1663 **1860** Portion of ms document being a receipt for carriers fee for a telegraph despatch with lovely blue postmasters negative seal with eagle and coach and 1851 year date (date of contract), from Kraiova, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, f-vf. PHOTO $90

1664 **1860 Large ms receipt for 10L5pa for carrier fee of telegraph despatch, lovely negative oval seal with *KURIERUL RUMANESK* in cyrillic plus angel with horn over coach, very attractive and exceptional condition for lampblack, signed *HEIMBUCHLER BPP,* vf and of great rarity.** PHOTO **$300**

1665 **1860** Manuscript reciept for carrier fee for telegram, sent from the telegraph station with negative seal in lamp black *POSTA R. SARAT* in cyrillic and eagle and posthorn signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP f-vf and scarce. PHOTO $90

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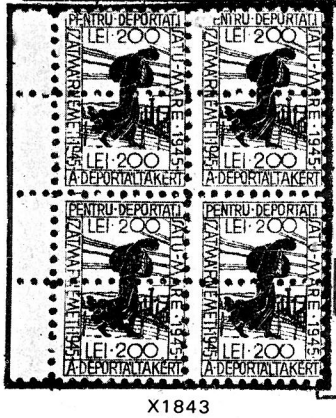


X1843

1666 **1860** Manuscript receipt for carrier fees of 20L10pa for telegram delivery, lovely negative post office seal of Slatina with 1851 year date, in lampblack showing eagle and coach, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, excellent condition for this type marking and very rare. PHOTO $180

1667 **POSTAL LETTER LISTS 1859** Large postal letter list "Fatura scrisorilor No 1", with blue double circle *FOLTITSCHENI MOLDOVA 13 4* cds (date inverted), similar blue Jassy receiving cds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP vf and rare. $75

1668 **1860** Postal letter list, "Fatura scrisorilor No 5" with straight line *GALATZ* red hs with double circle *BERLAD MOLDOVA 10 13* receiving cds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. $50

1669 **1860** Large postal letter and packet list, "Fatura groupilor No 19," with two strikes scarce st. line *GALATZ* red hs, to Berlad with the towns blue double circle cds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf and rare. PHOTO $100

1670 **1860** Postal letter list "Fatura scrisorilor No 5", with st. line *JASSI* ultramarine hs, to Berlad with that city's blue double circle cds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. $40

1671 **1860** Postal letter list, "Fatura scrisorilor No 5", with lovely red *JASSY MOLDOVA 9* (over *8*) *11* cds, to Bolgrad, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. $50

1672 **1860** Postal letter list, "Fatura scrisorilor No 5", with attractive ultramarine *JASSY MOLDOVA 22 8* double circle cds and similar greenish blue *BERLAD MOLDOVA 8 23* receiving cds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. $40

1673 **1860** Postal letter list, "Fatura scrisorilor," with 2 strikes *TEKUTSCH MOLDOVA 22 2* and *24 2* blue double circle cds to Fokschani with similar cds of that town the next day, signed HIEMBUCHLER BPP, f-vf. $40

1674 **1862** Large manuscript postal document, "Fatura groupilor," with form drawn by pencil, for 3 money letters from Vaslui to Jassy with lovely strike of fancy boxed *JASSY 6 1 62* black ds, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf and very rare. PHOTO $150

1675 **POSTAL RECEIPTS 1859** Pair of printed postal receipts for money sending, postal forms 2 and 16, from Gallatz with printed arms of Moldavia, one with spindle holes, other vf. $75

1676 **1859** Postal receipt "Adeverinta Posta Quittung No 16", blue official seal of Ismail Moldova, small tear at t, f-vf. PHOTO $50

1677 **1860** Manuscript postal document, "Quietanza" for 216 Lei, attractive black official seal of the Post Office at Ismail Molova, very rare in manuscript, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. $100

1678 **1872** Single circle *JASSY 26 JUNE 72* cds on postal receipt "Quitanta," for a parcel, used during the period of the united principalities, vf. $50

1679 **1872** Printed postal receipt, "QUITANTA" from the period of the united principalities with *ROMAN 12 APR 72* single circle cds, vf. PHOTO $50

1680 **POSTAL ROUTE MANIFESTS 1861** Large postal document "Despartirea Postelor No 92" being a manifest for the postal coach from Craioua, printed eagle and printed seal with eagle and coach, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, vf. PHOTO $100

1681 **1861** Large printed postal document "Departirea Postelor" for the postal route Ploesti, Preseal, Focsean, and Braila by postal coach, lovely printed arms with Eagle and Oxhead as well as printed postmaster's seal with eagle and coach, signed HEIMBUCHLER BPP, f-vf. $100

STAMPLESS COVERS

1682 ✉ **1847 Entire folded letter to Odessa with red two line *Б. ГАЛАЦЁЬ* date stamp, letter date lined Galatz 17 May 1847 to Odessa, clean vf cvr, scarce vf.** PHOTO **$300**

1683 ✉ **1858 Red old Cyrillic *VYLKOV FEB 28* pmk of Vilkovo on green couvert to Jassy, at r red *ПОРТО СКРИС-ОРИ ПАР* (postage paid par.) with rate added by hand, on rev red *ЕШ* hs as receiving mark with ms *5 Марца* below; this cvr is regarded as the sole recorded example of this marking, colorful and attractive,** ink of address faded, small tear in brown stain at b edge, **all markings sharp and vf.** PHOTO **$500**

1684 ✉ **1859** Entire folded letter to Bucharest with blue *BRAILA (FEB) 2* cyrillic hs, f-vf. PHOTO $75

1685 ✉ **1860** Lovely strike of blue *KAMPULUNG SEP 15* st. line cyrillic hs on folded cvr to Bucharest, vf. PHOTO $90

1686 ✉ **1861** Blue st. line *BUKURESCI SEP 16* st. line cyrillic hs on folded cvr, strike a bit weak in center o/w vf. PHOTO $75

1687 ✉ **1862** Entire folded letter to Jassy with *GALATZ MOLDOVA 25 6* cds and oval *FRANCO GALATZ* black hs, bkstd, f-vf. $40

1688 ✉ **1874** Entire folded letter to Bucharest with double circle ornamented *CARACAL 2 2* cds, boxed *20 BANI* hs (light), Craiova trasit on rev and bkstd, small tape repair to one back flap and ink date on front, fine+. $50

JUDAICA

1843 ★⊞ **ROMANIA 1945** Two revenue blks of 4, one 100L black and the other 200L red, on greenish paper, sold by the municipality of Satu Mare for a relief fund for the few hundred survivors of the citys' 12,960 Jews sent to Auschwitz, these stamps were required to be used on legal documents and had other applications, the stamps are perforated in the middle horizontally so they could be detached and affixed to a stub or reciept, the 100L with creasing affecting three stamps and a few separated perfs, the 200L with a small face thin affecting only one stamp, og and very scarce. PHOTO $90

ZEPPELIN POSTS

2269 —✉ **ROMANIA 1932** Eighth S.A. flt, red flt cach on regis card from Bucharest bkst Pernambuco, signed AISSLINGER BPP, vf. PHOTO Sieger #189A $200

2270 —✉ **1934** Argentina flt, violet flt cach on regis card from Bucarest bkst Buenos Aires, vf. PHOTO Sieger #254 $200

REVIEW:

ROMANIA REVENUES by Andrew Hall

Published by J. Barefoot (Investments) Ltd., 5 Bootham, York Y03 7BN, England, as No. 10 in the "European Philately" series, it contains 44 large pages (8¼ by 11¾, or 21 by 30 cm.), and is priced at £4.00.

This competent work presents a large number of Romanian revenues. This field has been little researched and was thus difficult to compile. While many of the illustrations could have been done better, we cannot quibble with this small failing as nobody else undertook such a work, either in Romania or abroad. Both Andrew Hall, the author, and J. Barefoot, the publisher, should be commended for their excellent job. This catalogue updates and goes beyond all the major stamp catalogues which list very few Romanian revenues.

Members of the Romanian Philatelic Club can order their copy from the editor for $8.50 post paid.

1944-45
TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Sălajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

A Romanian Postal History Tragedy

George Pataki

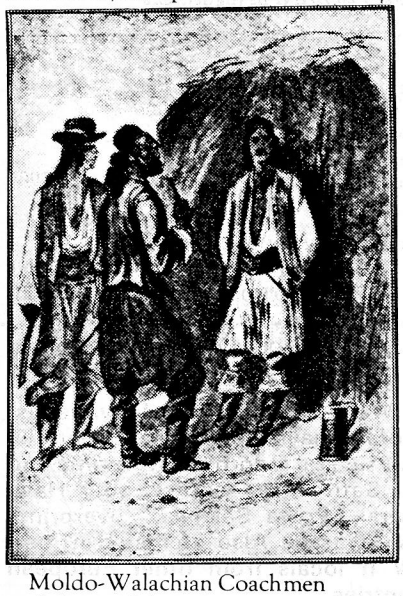
An unfortunate episode occurred in the 19th Century history of the posts in the Romanian pricipality of Moldavia. We present below a translation of this true story as related by Constantin Minescu in "Istoria Poştelor Române" (The History of the Romanian Posts). Published in 1916, in Bucharest, Romania, it tells of a tragic incident and how it affected Ion Fălcoianu, the Postmanster-General of Romania from March 16, 1867 to Sept. 11, 1868.

". . . Postmaster General Fălcoianu had to stop his activities, and could not get passed the good legislation he had drawn up, and for which he had worked so hard, because of the following unfortunate happening:

On September 7, 1868, N. Teodosiu, a postal driver, left Galaţi with the mail wagon. He went via Marasesti and Adjud, towards Jassy. Arriving at dawn at Domneşti (near Adjud), he noticed that the truck door was open, and that several packages, mail sacks, and two bags with cash with a value of 60,000 Lei were all missing.

Fălcoianu having been informed, immediately went to Mărăşesti. Already pesent were N. Constantinescu, the prefect of Putna County, D. Pop, the prefect of Tecuci County, and other officials of the administration, as well as the Mărăşeşti postal employees and the crew of the mail vehicle from which the valuables had disappeared. The wagon was also brought there for the inquest.

During the investigation, the driver maintained that upon leaving the Marasesti relay station, where he had delivered some items, he had tightly closed the truck's door, but upon arrival at Domneşti found it open and inside only a few melons and other small objects.



Moldo-Walachian Coachmen
lithograph by Denis August Raffet

Coach Crossing the Buzau River lithograph by Denis August Raffet

Mail Coach woodcarving by Charles Doussault

This statement created the belief in the investigators that they were dealing with a theft committed either by the postal employees of Mărăşeşti or by the mail truck crew.

Because the employees vehemently denied any guilt, the high ranking officials present did not stop the torturing of the suspected employees until some had died and others remained crippled.

This treatment created an uproar. The Focşani prosecutor's office was informed and investigated the case. The officials who authorized and took part in the torture of the suspects were tried and convicted. The Minister of Interior's Report No. 14,991 of Sept. 11, 1868 called for dismissal of Fălcoianu and the two prefects. This request was approved by the Prince (Carol) that same day.

At his trial, Fălcoianu was sentenced to jail. He died while doing time in the penitentiary.

The truth in this matter, which had caused so many misfortunes, first came to light about 6 to 7 years later. It seems that the driver leaving Mărăşeşti had not done a good job of locking the mail wagon. During the ride, the door had, in fact, opened. The bags, having on their bottoms wooden rods, polished by wear, readily slipped out. A group of peasants and a priest found th em in Putna County. The cash was divided among those who had found it. They buried the papers and bags near a cross in the churchyard where this priest officiated.

About 6 or 7 years elapsed. One of the perpetrators had a fight with his wife. Being angry, she told what had happened to other peasants. They, in turn, made a denouncement. After having made full confessions, the guilty ones were punished."

We certainly do not condone the harsh and inhumane ways of investigating. However, as one who has sent packages to Romania and subsequently found many not delivered, I wish somebody would finally fix all those mail truck doors.

Typesetting: **NOBEL GRAPHICS** 109-20 101 Avenue, Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419 (212) **843-4399**
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ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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EDITOR: George Pataki, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432

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Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 3, 4 of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1, 2 of 1984) can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

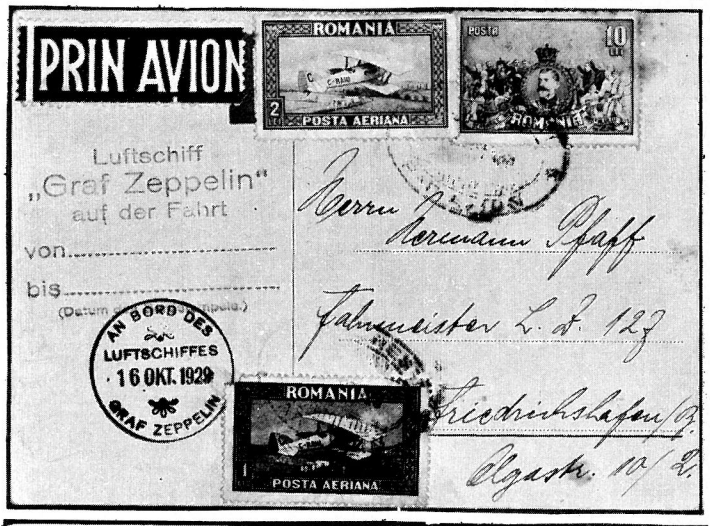
Romanian Zeppelin Covers

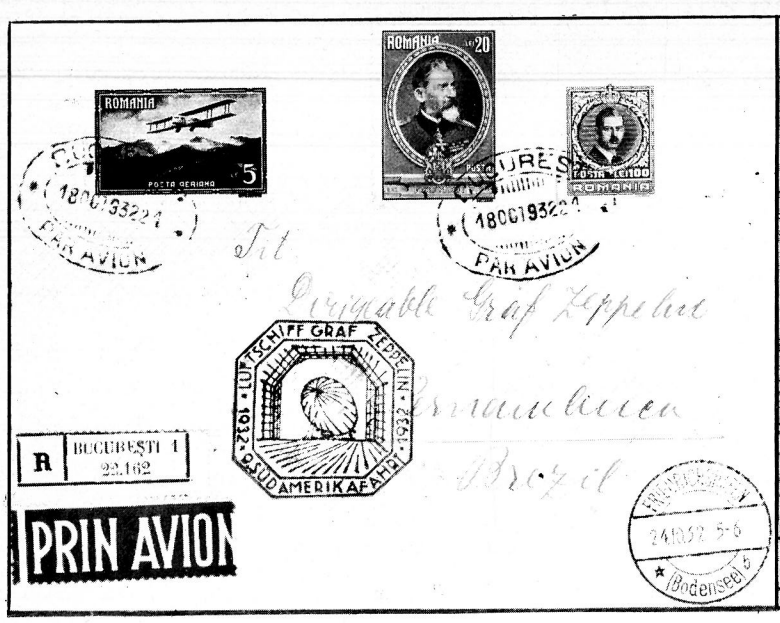
George Pataki

Below, we illustrate 11 Zeppelin items from the Herbert Klein (of New York) collection. R.P.S. No.1/1984 illustrated two of them previously in Roger Koerber auction catalogue excerpts. As can be seen from the pictures, stamp collectors or dealers made most such cards and covers. Their spectacular frankings often consist of stamps not usually found affixed on ordinary business or private correspondence. In fact, S. Lupovici, a well known Bucharest dealer, utilized scarce and expensive imperforates (along side some normal definitives and commemoratives) in preparing two of the items shown.

The lack of any written message on such cards or inside such covers also betrays their philatelic origins. Some covers were not sealed. If they are closed, they contain nothing.

Puritanical collectors of a bygone era might bemoan the philatelic origins of Zeppelin mail. However, insisting on "genuine commercial mail" would severly limit such a collection. The Zeppelin Company relied heavily for financial support on philatelic enthusiasm. Few people in Germany, outside of the stamp collecting fraternity, were cognizant of mailing opportunities utilizing the airships. Outside of Germany, this lack of information would naturally be greater. Purists will just have to find a way to live with the fact that, although some flights carried large amounts of mail, items from outside Germany are almost uniformly prepared by

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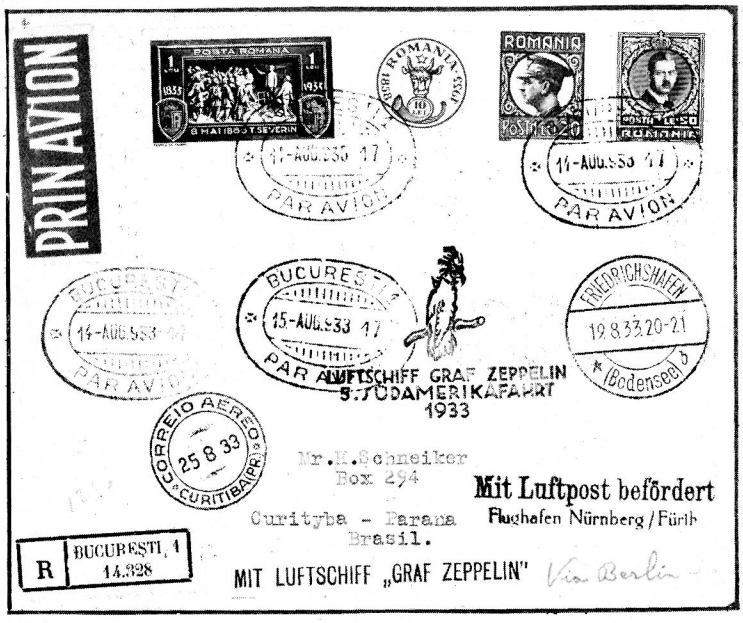
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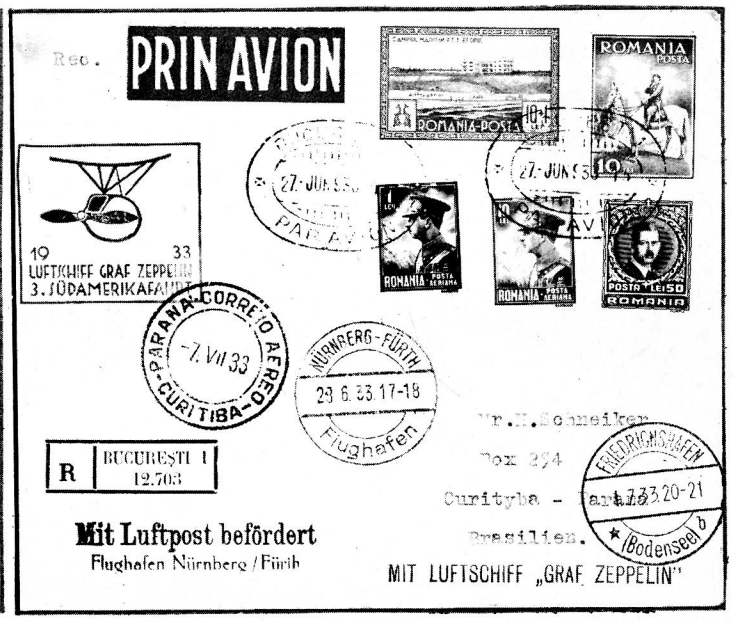
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Nur mit Luftschiff „Graf Zeppelin"
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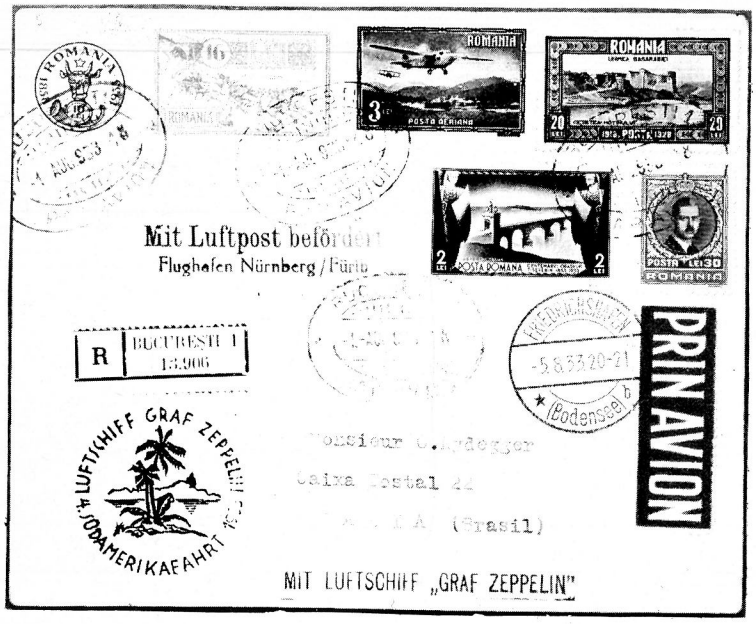
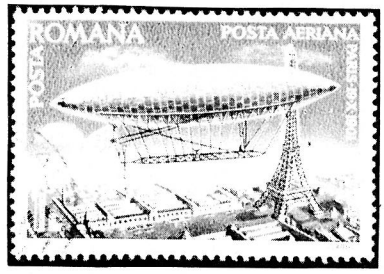
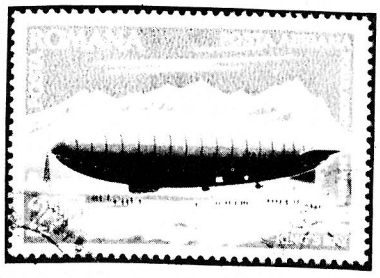
Hermann Stolz & Co
Recife - Pernambuco
Brasilien - Brasil







philatelists for phialtelists.

All the items depicted originated in Bucharest. The earliest left on October 16, 1929 while the latest was mailed on April 3 1935. Consequently, with one exception, they display a double oval "BUCURESTI PAR AVION" departure marking. While one cover was sent to Germany, the balance are addressed to South America. One of these went to Lima, Peru, another to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the other 8 to various cities in Brazil. All were air mailed to Friedrichshafen (Bodensee), in Germany, the origin point for Zeppelin Trans-Atlantic flights.

Two covers are simply addressed to "Dirigeable Graf Zeppelin" in "Pernambuco, Brezil". Two ordinary cards show only an address and no message. Despite the fact that most of these items are of philatelic origins, they, nevertheless, were genuinely carried by the airship. Thus, we must be thankful to the dealers and collectors of the time for preserving for us evidence of these significant moments in air transporation history.

The Romanian postal administration issued on March 20, 1978, a set of six air mail stamps and a 10 Lei souvenir sheet commemorating various air ship flights, as follows:

60 B. Friedrichshafen,	2.VIII.1900
1 L. Paris	19.X.1901
1.50 L. New York	6.VII.1919
2.15 L. Polul Nord,	24.V.1928
3.40 L. Braşov,	16.X.1929
4.80 L. Sibiu,	16.X.1929
10 L. Bucureşti,	16.X.1929

Note on the P. Rapp Auction

The Romanian lots offered in the P. Rapp auction, and excerpted in this issue (and continuing in future issues), were withdrawn from sale. In spite of this, we present this exceptionally interesting collection because of its great importance to researchers and collectors alike.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

GOLD at CHICAGOPEX

The prestigious **CHICAGOPEX** exhibition and bourse (organized by the Chicago Philatelic Society, Oct 14-16, 1983) saw two gold medals for philatelic literature awarded. One went to a handbook, while our periodical, ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES, got the other. It achieved the highest possible honor by the dint of the contributing authors' laborious and conscientious research. By sharing the results of their studies, these writers have done a great service for the philatelic community. We should also mention the painstaking efforts in the tedious job of correcting and proofreading the copy, done by **MARK FROMER** of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The editor and the readers owe all these benefactors an ever greatful **THANK YOU.**

INQUIRIES regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

Counterfeits of the "Numerals in 4 Corners" Issue

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chiţu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

The "Numerals in 4 corners" sets (Scott #94-107, Minkus #99-112, Michel #76-89, Gibbons #251-291, Zumstein #76-89) were issued during the Jan. 1890-Jan. 1894 period, first with a coat-of-arms pseudo watermark, later unwatermarked. The denominations which make up the sets are: 1½, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 Bani. Dr. Frantisek Novak (of Prague, Czechoslovakia) and Alfred Nicolau (of Craiova, Romania) have extensively researched these stamps. Dr. Novak published his findings in No. 2/1960 of the Romanian magazine Filatelia, while Nicolau's studies, which extend to the counterfeits, appear in Nos. 11 and 12/1969 of the same publication.

This article focuses on forgeries of the two highest denominations. As they have been found in collections formed in the 1890's, it is most likely that such counterfeits date to around the period of usage of the genuine stamps. It is thus possible that they were produced not only to deceive collectors but also for fraudulent postal use. Forgeries cancelled with genuine postmarks, preferably on cover, have to be yet presented as proof of this hypothesis. Furthermore, it is possible that other denominations, besides the 25 and 50 Bani exist as counterfeits.

Type I Fig. 1 Genuine Type II

25 BANI Genuine

The genuine 25 Bani comes in 2 types. In both types the letter "R" of "ROMANIA" appears under the upper left box containing the numerals "25". However there are some differences. Fig. 1 (at left) shows type I, on which the box center, if extended towards the letter "R", would touch the left side of the "R" 's vertical leg. Type II has that imaginary line cutting the right side of the "R" 's vertical leg as shown in Fig. 1 (at right). The upper pair of white arrows in the illustrations mark these points of difference. The lower pair point to other differences. The oval frame around the effigy is made up of 3 oval lines. the interior and exterior ones are white while the middle one is blue, the color of the stamp. On type I, the inside white oval line is thicker than the other two. On type II the blue oval line is the thickest. The exterior white oval line is thin in both cases. Furthermore, the distance from the center of the left rosette to the left side of the "R" 's vertical leg measures 2.3 mm. on type I, but only 2.1 mm. on type II. On all genuine stamps the line indicating the back of the neck is clear and strong.. The letters, numerals, ornaments and the oval frame lines are precisely and finely drawn. The paper is smooth and white. The perforation gauges 11½, 13½, 11½x13½ or 13½x11½.

25 Bani Counterfeit #1

Fig. 2 shows the first counterfeit. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" appears more to the left and the second letter "A" in "ROMANIA" more to the right than on either genuine type. Thus, the word "ROMANIA" appears longer than on the genuine. The center of the left rosette is spaced only 1.3mm. from the letter "R". The back neck line lacks good definition. The perforation gauges 13.

25 Bani Counterfeit #2

Fig. 3 depicts the second type of counterfeit. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" is more to the left than on the genuine type II but not as much as on the first counterfeit.

Fig. 2. Counterfeit #1

Fig. 3 Counterfeit #2

Fig. 4 Genuine

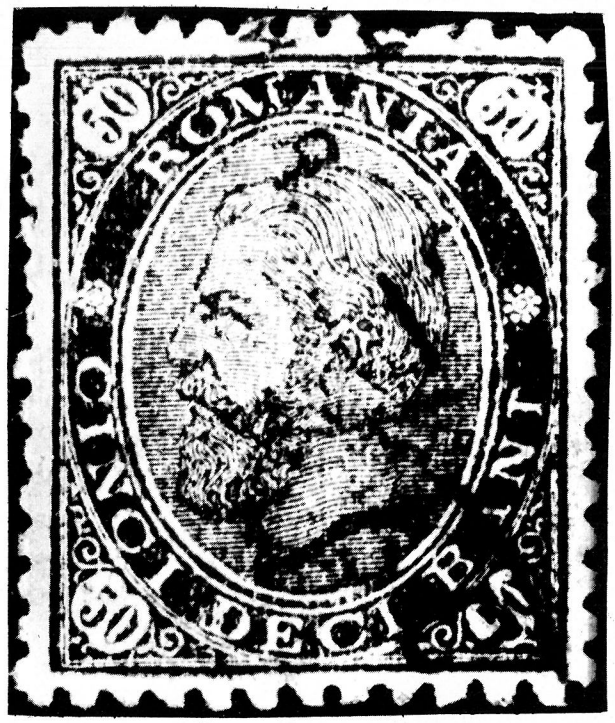


Fig. 5 Counterfeit

The oval frame surrounding the effigy resembles that on the genuine type I, in as much as the inside white frame is thicker than the blue frame. This counterfeit also resembles genuine type II stamps as far as the "R" 's vertical leg's left side being 2.1 mm. away from the left rosette's center. The back neck line appears very unclear. Its 13½x13 perforation does not match any on authentic copies.

The drawings of both these counterfeits are not as sharp as those on the genuine stamps. The ornaments appear less fine, the oval frame less precisely drawn, the numerals generally thinner and the letters thicker that those on the genuine stamps. The ink is less saturated. The watermark, when it exists, is barely visible. Both 25 Bani counterfeits are found mint or cancelled.

50 Bani Genuine

Fig. 4 depicts the genuine 50 Bani stamp. The "R" of "ROMANIA" is centered under the "5" of "50". The second "C" in "CINCI" is situated above the "5" of the lower left "50". The distance from the center of the left rosette to the "R" is 4 mm. and to the "C" in "CINCI" is 3.5 mm. The back of the neck is clearly defined and the drawing is fine and precise. Perforations of 11½, 13½, 11½x13½ and 13½x11½ exist.

50 Bani Counterfeit

Fig. 5 illustrates the 50 Bani counterfeit. This denomination seems to be better drawn than the 25 Bani counterfeits. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" is further to the right than on the genuine stamp. The second "A" in the same word is more to the left than on the genuine stamp. Thus the word "ROMANIA" is shorter on the counterfeit than on the genuine. The second "C" in "CINCI" is well in front of the lower left numberal "5" in "50" while on the genuine stamp it is directly above it. The distance between the center of the left rosette and the letter "R" in "ROMANIA" measures 5 mm. and to the first letter "C" in "CINCI" it is 2 mm. The perforation, 12½x13½, or close to this, does not occur on genuine stamps. The outline at back of King Carol's neck is not clear.

Bearing in mind the above characteristics, collectors may check their stamps and separate genuine ones from counterfeits.

The "AJUTORAREA INFOMETATILOR BASARABIEI" Bogus Overprint

George Pataki

The 1920-1926 period saw the issue of several printings of the "Ferdinand - small effigy" definitives. With available quantities large, the stamps were very cheap. A private group, to be able to sell some for higher prices, in 1923, unofficially surcharged three denomination. The Postmaster General did not give approval for this issue. The three-line text is followed by new value as follows: "AJUTORAREA/INFOMETAŢILOR/BASARABIEI/denomination". This translates as "assistance for the starving Bessarabians", suggesting that the overprinting was for charitable purpose.

The following stamps received overprints:

The 3 Bani black (Scott 261, Michel 264, Gibbons 923) bears a red overprint and the new value of "1 Leu";

The 60 Bani gray green (Scott 268, Michel 271, Gibbons 930) shows a black overprint and the new value of "Lei 2";

The 6 Lei blue (Scott 278, Michel 281, Gibbons 940) received a red overprint and the new value of "Lei 5".

This overprint is neither a forgery nor a counterfeit, as it does not try to duplicate a genuine overprint. It is a bogus overprint, a fantasy of its creators. Thus no foreign catalogue lists these overprinted stamps. Some Romanian catalogues do mention their existence, without illustrating them. Their description, however, omit the word "Basarabiei" because this formerly Romanian territory is now a part of the Soviet Union and the Romanians do not want to hurt Russian feelings by mentioning it in any way.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

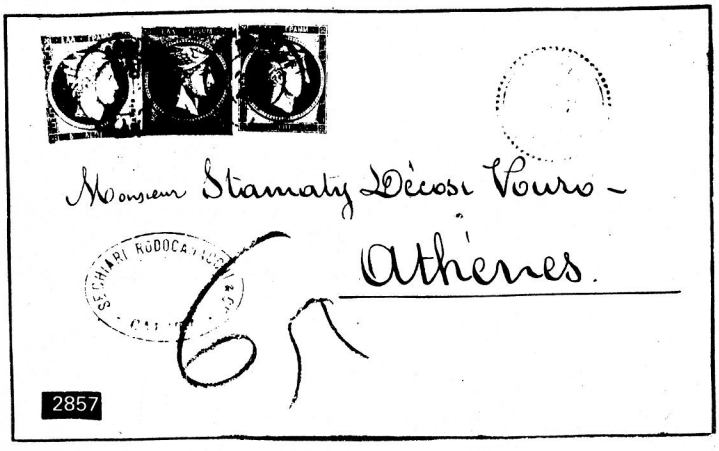
Toggenburgerstr. 139 P.O.Box 273
CH-9500 Wil – Switzerland

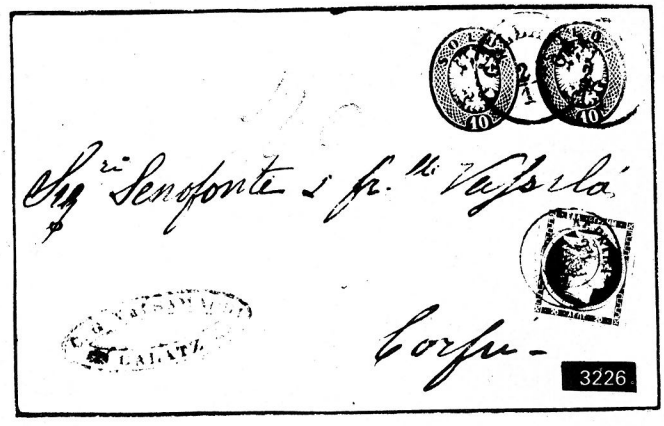
Peter Rapp

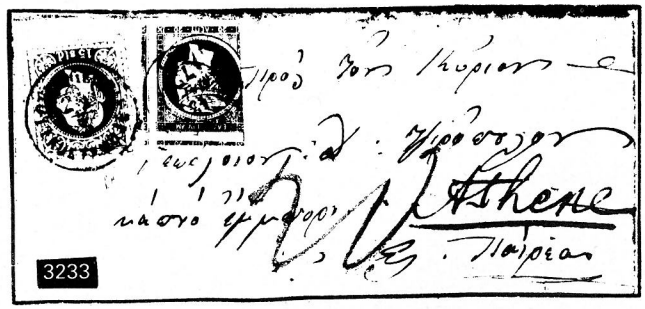
5–10. Nov 1983

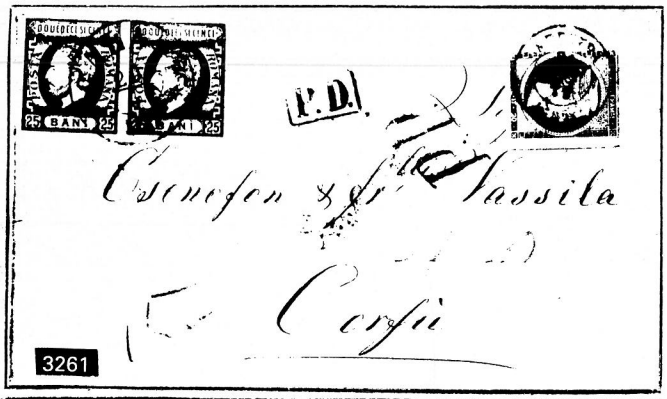
Mischfrankaturen und Spezialitäten

Los-Nr.		Michel-Nr.		Startpreis SFr.
2857	Sehr schöner Brief von GALATZ nach Athen mit 5 L. + 20 L. + 40 L. VI.30+32+33.	18+20+21	✉	800.–
3226	Brief von GALLATZ nach Corfu mit 2 Exemplaren 10 Sld. blau und 20 L. blau (1862/69). Interessanter Beleg mit Räucherschlitzen.		✉	1000.–
3227	Schöner Brief von GIURGEVO nach Athen mit 5 + 10 Sld. sowie 20 L. blau (diese Registraturfalte).		✉	1000.–
3233	Brief von KUSTENDJE nach Athen mit 15 Sld. braun und 20 L. blau (1872/75). Nur sehr wenige Belege dieses österr. Postamtes bekannt! Attest Holcombe.		✉	1500.–
3261	Brief von GALATZ via Constantinopel nach Corfu mit Paar 25 B. braun und 20 L. blau in guter Erhaltung! Seltener Beleg, gez. Holcombe.		✉	1500.–
3262	Brief von GIURGIU (Rumänien) mit 50 B. rosa nach Syros, dort nachfrakiert mit 20 L. blau (1872/75)! Äusserst seltener und attraktiver Beleg, die 50 B. von Rumänien auf Brief ist schon eine Rarität, in Kombination mit Griechenland wohl einmalig! Attest Holcombe.		✉	3000.–
3263	Brief von GIURGIU (Rumänien) mit 50 B. von 1869 via Österreichisches Postamt in Constantinopel nach Syros, dort nachfrankiert mit 20 L. blau (1862/67). Ein seltener und attraktiver Beleg! Attest Holcombe.		✉	2000.–
3268	Markenloser Brief von Syros nach GALATZ, rückseitig blauer Rundstempel GALATZ vom griechischen Postamt. Äusserst seltener Beleg mit Liebhaberwert. Attest Holcombe.		✉	2000.–
3269	Schöner Brief von GALLATZ nach Syros, dort mit 20 L. blau (Paris) nachfrankiert.		✉	800.–
3270	Markenloser Brief von Syros nach Bukarest via Ibraila, rückseitig blaue Bestätigungsstempel der griechischen Postbüros von IBRAILA und BUCKAREST. Grösste Rarität mit hohem Liebhaberwert! Attest Holcombe.		✉	2000.–
3271	Markenloser Brief von IBRAILA nach Syros, austaxiert mit 110 L. Sehr seltener Beleg, nur wenige Briefe der griechischen Postbüros in Rumänien sind bekannt! Attest Holcombe.		✉	1500.–
3272	Brief von IBRAILA (Rumänien) mit 80 L. (1862/67), entwertet durch das österreichische Postamt in GALATZ, welches diese Marke als Porto nach Marseille akzeptierte. Ungewöhnliche und einzigartige Frankatur! Attest Holcombe.		✉	2000.–
3273	20 L. + 10 L. + 80 L. (1862/67) zusammen auf Brief von IBRAILA (Wallachai) nach Athen in hervorragender Erhaltung. Nur 3 Belege von Ibraila mit griechischen Marken sind bekannt! Attest Holcombe.		✉	2000.–





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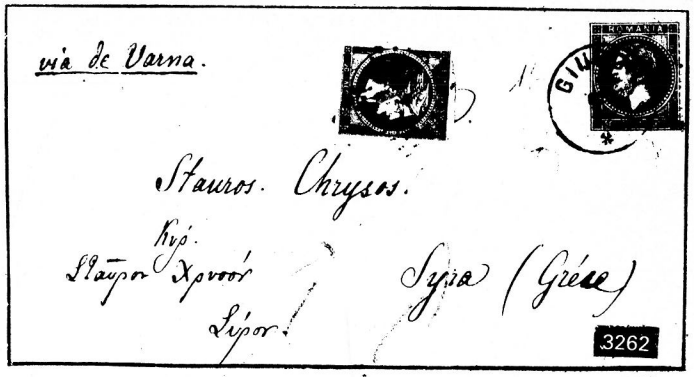
via de Varna.
Stauros. Chrysos.
Κυρ.
Σταύρο Χρυσού
Σύρο.
Syra (Grèce)
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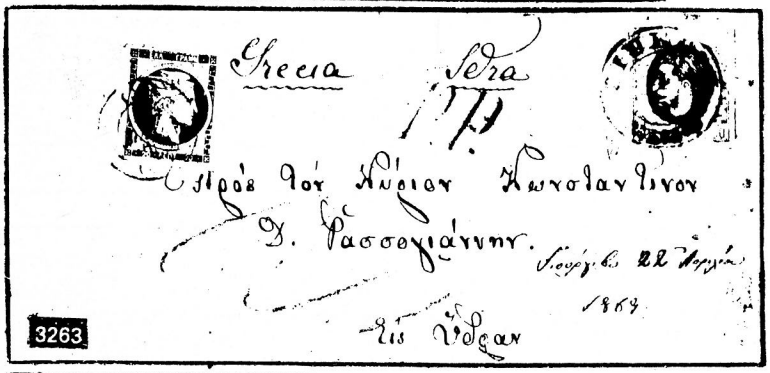
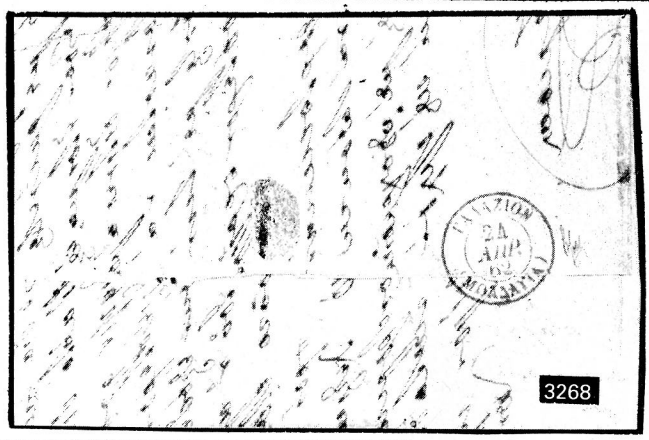

Grecia
Sera
Πρὸς τὸν Κύριον Νικόλαον
Δ. Βασσογιάννην.
1864
Εἰς Ὕδραν
3263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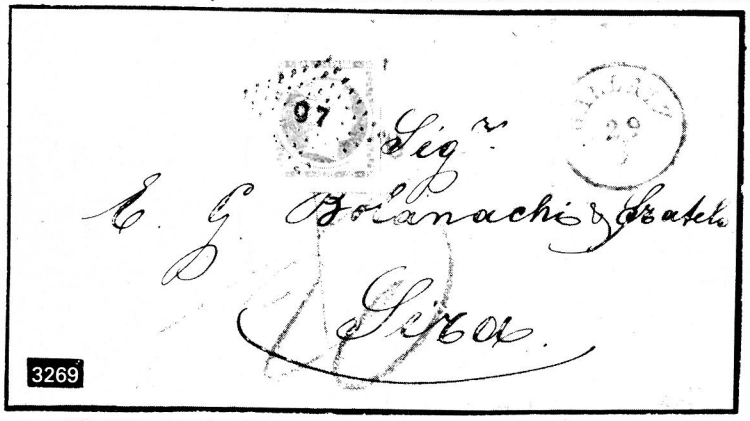
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C. G. Bolanachi y Hijo
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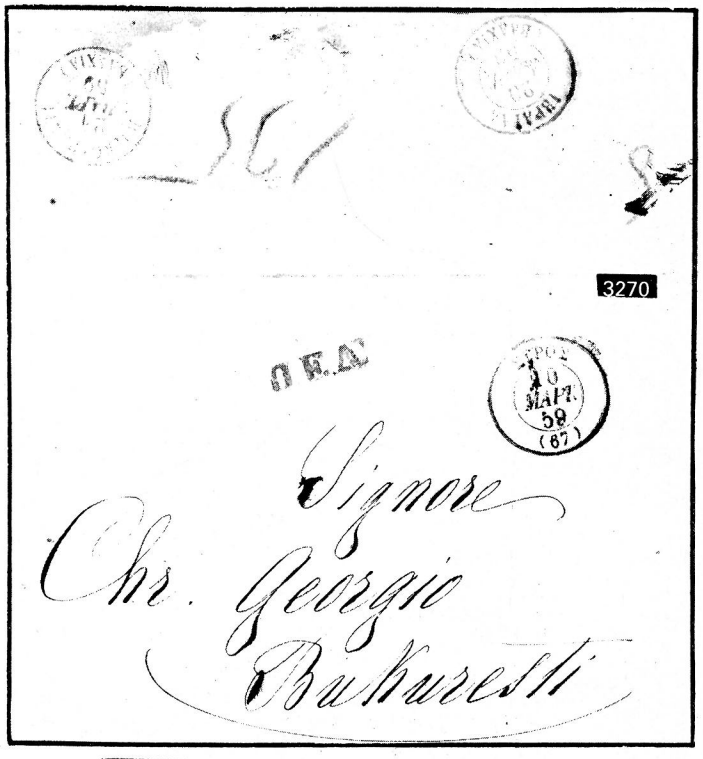
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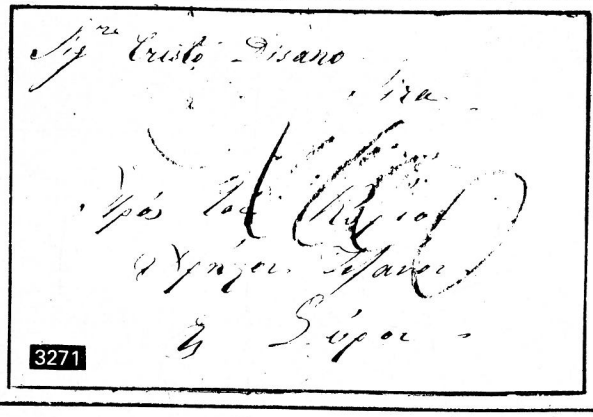
O.R.A.
Signore
Chr. Georgio
Bukarest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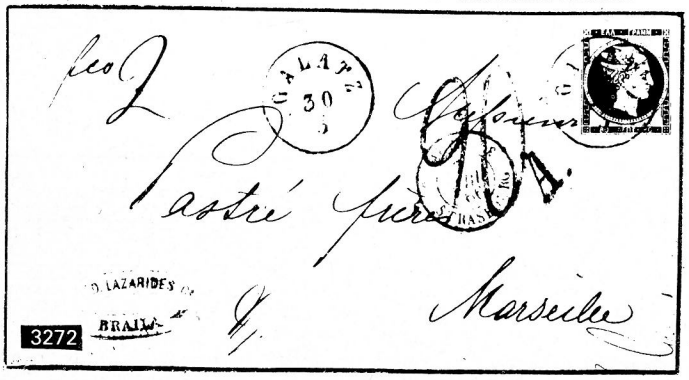
D. LAZARIDES
BRAILA
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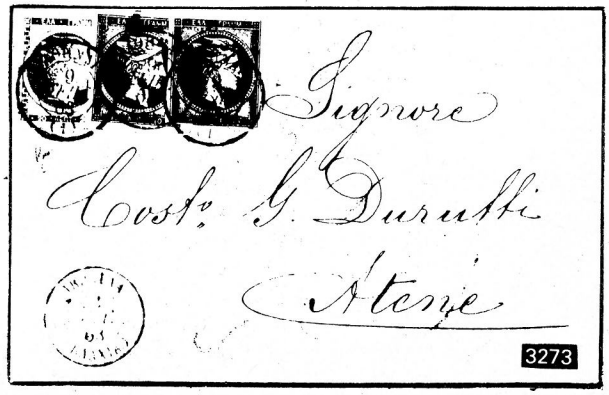
Signore
Cost.o G. Durutti
Atene
3273

Los-Nr.	**RUMÄNIEN**	Michel-Nr.		Startpreis SFr.
3353	54 P. grün/blassgrün, frisch und ungewöhnlich breitrandig, ungebraucht ohne Gummi. Die Marke weist eine sehr leichte Bugspur und rückseitig Schürfungen auf.	2	(*)	1000.–
3354	54 P. grün/blassgrün, frische Farbe und sehr breitrandig. Leichte senkrechte Bugspur, sonst gut. Attest Fulpius.	2		1000.–
3355	54 P. grün/blassgrün, voll- bis sehr breit gerandet und frisch. Rückseitig kleiner Schürfpunkt und waagrechte Bugspur, sonst gut.	2		800.–
3356	81 P. blau/bläulich, vollrandig und aussergewöhnlich frisch, ungebraucht ohne Gummi. Die beiden unteren Eckspitzen sind leicht hell, was aber laut Attest Cueni bei dieser Welt-Rarität kaum ins Gewicht fällt. Foto siehe Farbtafel 14.	3	(*)	4000.–
3357	108 P. blau/blassrot, sehr frisch und breitrandig, trotz ganz geringer Fehler ein selten schönes Exemplar.	4		1500.–
3358	Lot von 3 Belegen, dabei Brief mit 10, 15 + 25 B. etc.	aus 39-53	✉	100.–

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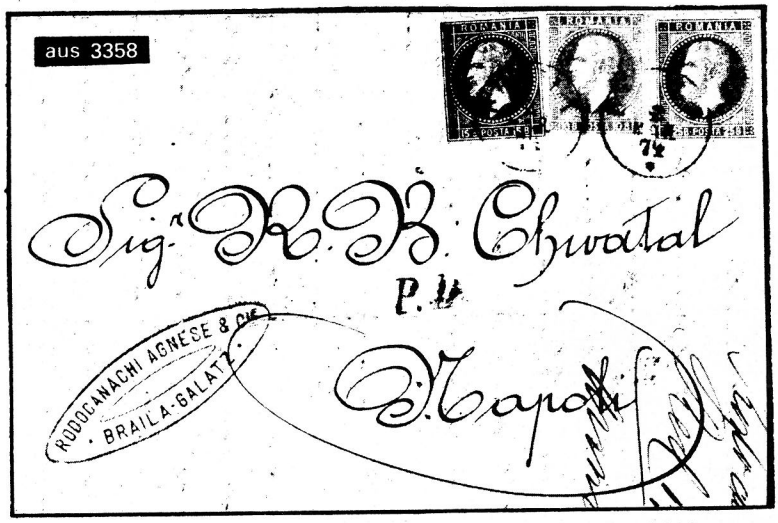
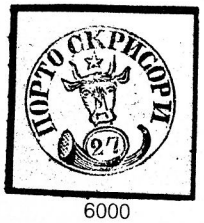

aus 3358

6000	27 P. schwarz a. mattrosa, ungewöhnnlich breitrandig, frisch und von denkbar feinster Qualität! Liebhaberstück von höchstem Wert! Attest Heimbüchler, gez. Pfenninger, Diena etc.	1		15000.–
6001	27. P. schwarz a. mattrosa, prachtvolles Liebhaberstück! In dieser excellenten Qualität Rarität ersten Ranges! Attest Heimbüchler, gez. Diena.	1		8000.–
6002	27 P. schwarz a. rosa, schöne und frische Farbe, voll bis breit gerandet auf prächtigem Brief vom 31.10.58, also vom letzten Verwendungstag! Brief-Rarität ersten Ranges in perfekter Erhaltung! Ex-Sammlung Caspary. Attest Heimbüchler.	1	✉	15000.–
6003	27 P. schwarz a. rosa, aussergewöhnlich farbenfrisch und tadellos (winziger Schürfpunkt an der äussersten Ecke bedeutungslos) auf kleinformatigem Briefchen in allerfeinster Erhaltung. Attest Heimbüchler, gez. Bolaffi, Diena.	1	✉	10000.–
6004	54 P. blaugrün a. blassgrün, sehr frisch und ungewöhnlich breitrandig mit Resten des Original-Gummis. Im rechten Rand, neben dem Markenbild, verläuft eine senkrechte Bugspur, sonst tadellose Erhaltung. Ex-Sammlung Burrus. Attest Heimbüchler.	2	*	4000.–
6005	54 P. grün a. blassgrün, prächtiges Liebhaberstück in leuchtend frischer Farbe und ungewöhnlich breiten Rändern auf Briefstück, idealer und zarter Stempel von GALATZ. Eine Bugspur im oberen, äusseren Rand ist bedeutungslos. Ex-Sammlung Caspary. Attest Heimbüchler.	2	△	5000.–
6006	54 P. blaugrün a. blassgrün, sehr frisch und breitrandig auf prächtigem Briefstück (Eckfältchen oben rechts ohne Bedeutung). Attest Heimbüchler.	2	△	2500.–
6007	54 P. blaugrün a. blassgrün, sehr frisch und breitrandig auf Briefstück, klarer Stempel TEKUTSCH. Im rechten Aussenrande befindet sich eine sehr leichte Bugspur, sonst tadellos. Attest Heimbüchler, gez. Bolaffi.	2	△	2000.–
6008	54 P. blaugrün a. blassgrün, teils überrandig geschnitten und von hervorragender Farbenfrische auf Brief nach Galatz (Anschrift der Adresse teilweise ausgebessert) Briefseltenheit aus der Burrus-Sammlung. Attest Heimbüchler.	2	✉	5000.–
6009	81 P. blau a. bläulich, sehr farbenfrisch und breitrandig, völlig tadellos mit Original-Gummi. Laut Attest Heinrich Köhler das beste ungebrauchte Exemplar dieser Rarität! Mit Original-Gummi sollen nur 2-3 Exemplare der 81 P. bekannt sein. Ex-Sammlung Ferrari. Atteste Köhler und Heimbüchler.	3	*	15000.–
6010	81 P. blau a. bläulich, sehr frisch und breite Ränder sowie voller Original-Gummi, hervorragend erhalten (einige minime Gummipunkte bedeutungslos). Ein Qualitätsstück ersten Ranges, mit Original-Gummi nur 2-3 Exemplare bekannt. Attest Heimbüchler.	3	*	15000.–
6011	81 P. blau a. bläulich, voll- bis sehr breit gerandet und von guter Farbe. In den Aussenrändern weist die Marke Bugspuren sowie 1 Nadelstich auf, sonst gut. Ausserordentlich seltene Marke. Attest Heimbüchler.	3	(*)	8000.–
6012	81 P. blau a. bläulich, sehr farbenfrisch, sauber und klar gestempelt, feinste und tadellose Erhaltung! Die seltenste Rumänien-Marke! Attest Heimbüchler.	3		15000.–

6013	108 P. blau a. rosa, leuchtend frische Farbe und breite Ränder, abgesehen von einer sehr leichten Bugspur in excellenter Qualität. Liebhaberstück aus der Caspary-Sammlung.	4	(*)	8000.–
6014	108 P. blau a. mattrosa, ein prachtvolles Liebhaberstück in leuchtend frischen Farben und teils ungewöhnlich breiten Rändern auf weissem Briefstück, attraktiver roter Stempel von JASSY. Qualitätsstück ersten Ranges aus der König Carol-Sammlung. Attest Heimbüchler.	4	△	6000.–
6015	108 P. blau a. rosa, ungewöhnlich breitrandig mit blauem Stempel von FOKSCHAU in hervorragender Erhaltung! Liebhaberstück aus der Burrus-Sammlung. Attest Heimbüchler.	4		4000.–
6016	108 P. blau a. blassrot, ungewöhnlich breit gerandet und von guter Farbe auf Liebhaber-Briefstück! Atteste Fulpius und Hunziker.	4	△	4000.–
6017	108 P. blau a. rosa, ungewöhnlich breit gerandet und von hervorragender Farbenfrische auf prachtvollem Brief von Piatra! Briefrarität in excellenter Qualität! Attest Heimbüchler, gez. Diena und Bolaffi.	4	⊠	15000.–
6018	108 P. dunkelblau a. rosa, prachtvolles Exemplar mit breiten Rändern und hervorragend frischer Farbe auf Brief nach Galatz in allerfeinster Erhaltung! Briefrarität von hohem Liebhaberwert! Atteste Diena, Bolaffi und Heimbüchler.	4	⊠	12000.–
6019	108 P. blau a. rosa, breitrandig und von ausnehmend frischer Farbe auf Briefteil mit rotem Stempel von JASSY. In der linken unteren Ecke befindet sich eine unbedeutende Schürfstelle. Ex-Sammlung Caspary. Attest Heimbüchler.	4	⊠	8000.–
6020	5 P. schwarz a. bläulichem Papier, prachtvolles Briefstück mit blauem Stempel JASSY für höchste Qualitäts-Ansprüche! Atteste Bloch und Heimbüchler.	5 x	△	5000.–
6021	5 P. schwarz a. weissem Papier, ausnehmend frisch und breite Ränder mit vollem Original-Gummi. Eines der schönsten bekannten Exemplare dieser Marke! Attest Heimbüchler.	5 v	*	8000.–
6022	5 P. schwarz, sehr schöner und breitrandiger Vierer-Streifen!	5 I	**/*	500.–
6023	5 P. schwarz, sehr schöner Viererblock mit 2 Kehrdruck-Paaren!	5 I K	**/*	1000.–
6024	5 P. schwarz, tadelloser Bogen von 32 Marken mit 8 Kehrdruck-Paaren!	5 I K	**/*	3000.–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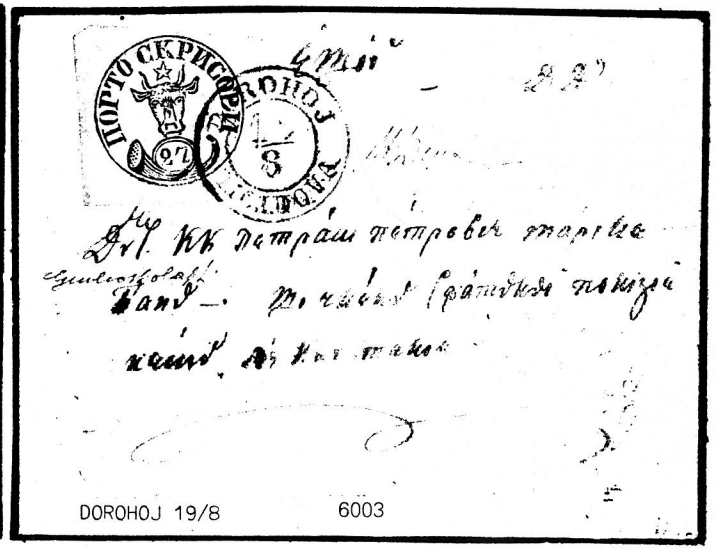
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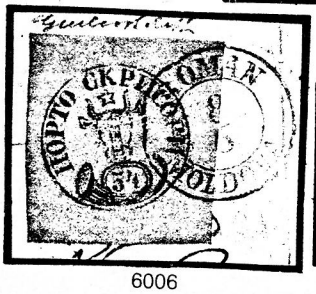
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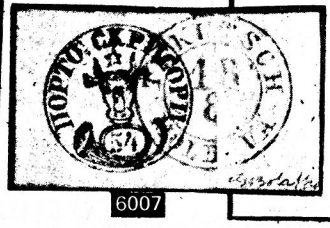
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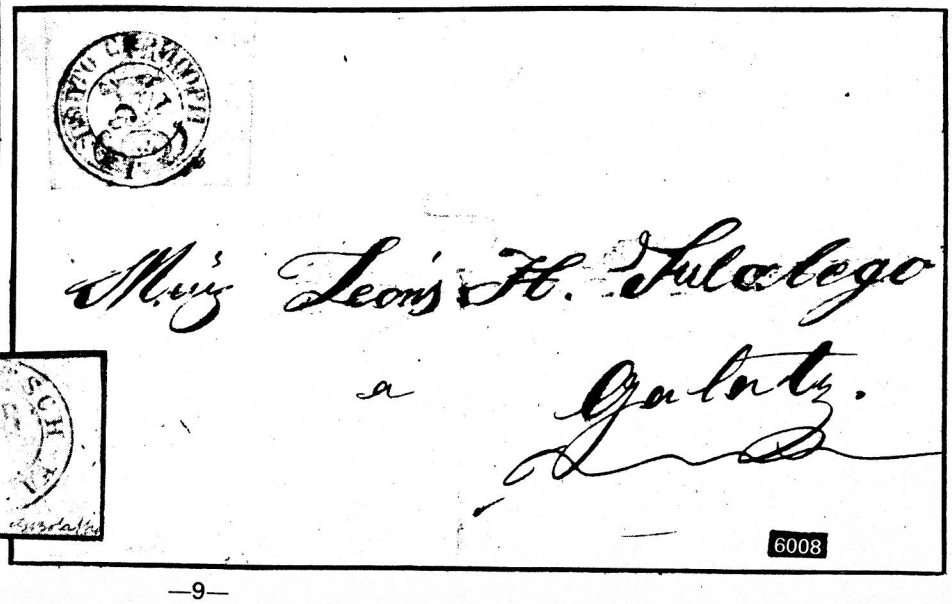
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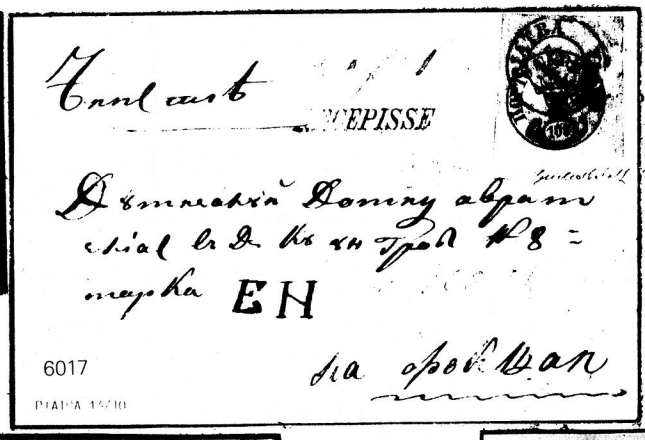
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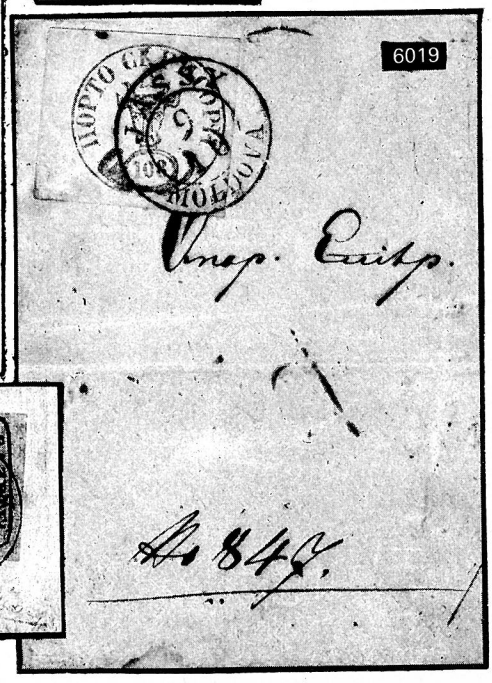
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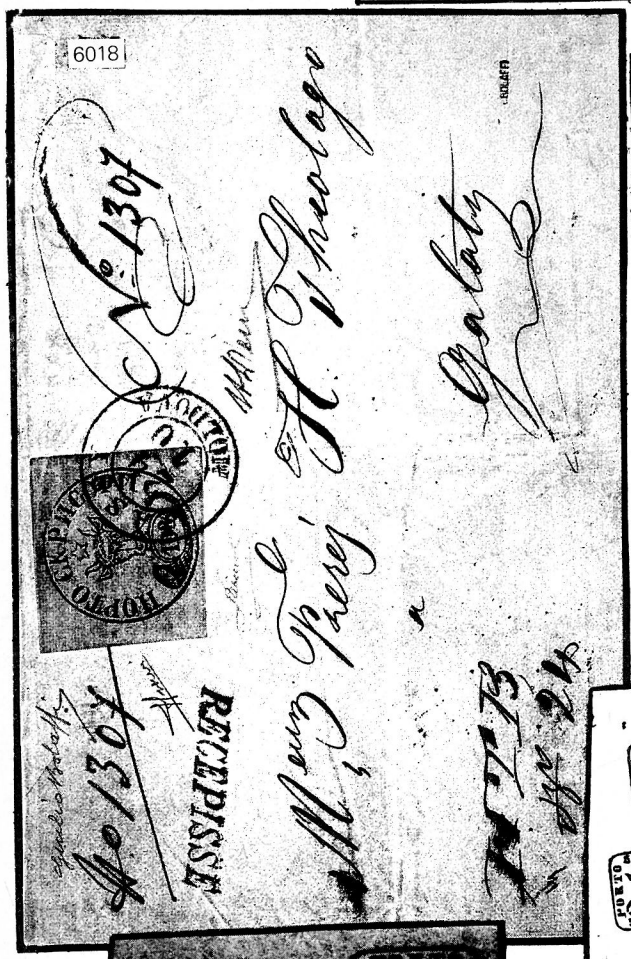
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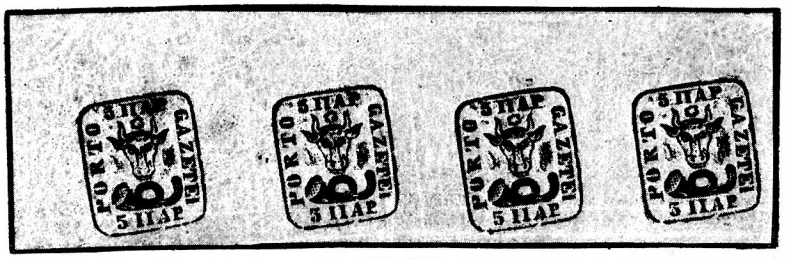
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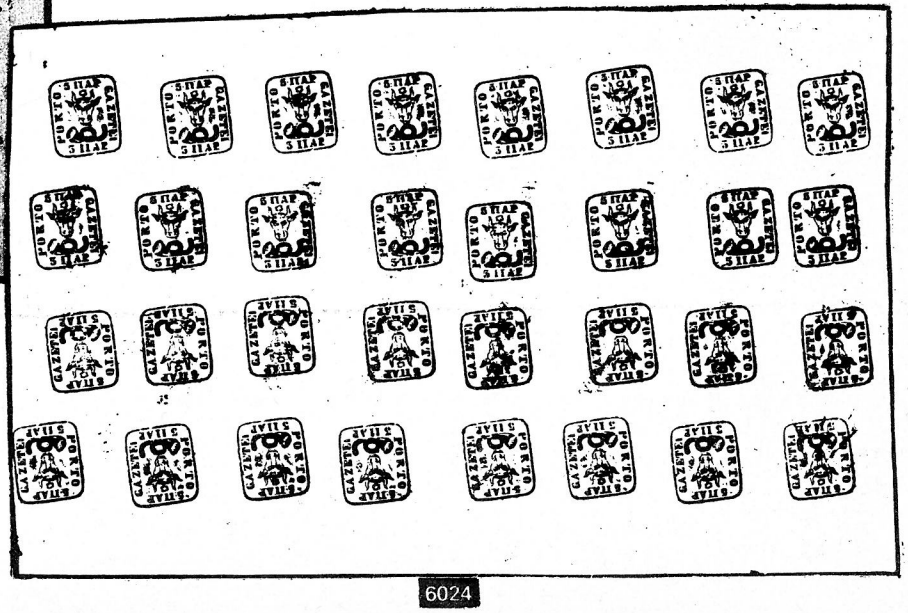
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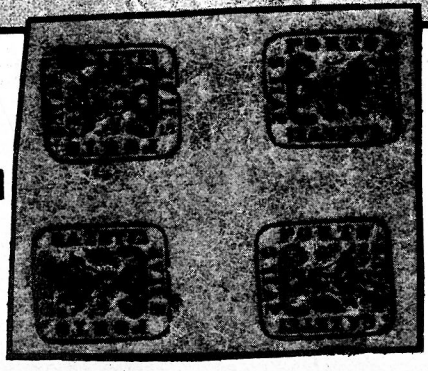
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The Inverted Overprints of the Cluj-Oradea Issue

DR. ENG. MARCEL SAPIRA, Sos. Olteniţei No. 73, bl.5, et.II, apt. 10 75504 Bucharest, Romania

Two of my articles, published in R.P.S. nos. 4/1979 and 2/1980, presented some of the errors of the Cluj-Oradea issues of 1919. This piece examines some details of the inverted overprints. Both these issues are listed by Scott in their Hungarian chapter while Minkus, Zumstein, Gibbons and Michel list them in their Romanian section.

Considering the haste in which the Cluj and Oradea issues were prepared and the large number of sheets overprinted, it is understandable that some sheets were inadvertently fed incorrectly into the printing press, thus receiving inverted overprints. At least, so goes the version of those claiming that such inverted overprints were not deliberately made to create philatelic varieties and rarities. Skeptics reject this version, stating that in cases of real errors such on the 50 Bani "Zita-Köztársaság" (Scott #6N43, Zumstein #339, Gibbons #852) of the Oradea issues, the mistake was observed only after the inverted overprinting of a relatively large number (49) of sheets (4,900 stamps) and, furthermore, that these were then sold at the post offices, whereas the other so-called "error" inverted overprints appeared only on the philatelic market.

The number of sheets of the Cluj issue with inverted overprints is well known. The same data on the Oradea issue is a matter of dispute. The table below lists only those issues known to contain at least one sheet with inverted overprints. The 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #6N18, Z.#309, G.#827) and the 6 Bani Postage Due (Scott #6NJ4, Z.#57, G.#D864), both of the Oradea issue, have not been included in this table. According to some researchers, a full sheet of each existed with inverted overprints, while others claim much smaller quantities.

Instances are known, when besides full sheets receiving the overprint, part sheets of varying sizes were joined by adhesive tape on the reverse to make up the same format as full sheets before being overprinted. Some of these blocks were mounted inverted. A sheet of the 15 Bani Harvesters is known with an incorrectly positioned block of 60 stamps receiving inverted overprints, becoming Scott # 6N12, Z.#302, G.#821. In certain cases, only corner blocks were added to complete a sheet. In still other instances, sheets were made up by taping together stamps of the same denomination but of different types.

Zita- Köztársaság with inverted overprints.

Karl with inverted overprint

Philatelic literature has reported the following stamps of the Oradea issue with inverted overprints, to exist in quantities less than a full sheet: 2 and 3 Bani Harvesters (Scott #6N7 and 6N8, Z.#297 and 298, G.#815 and 816), 20 Bani Harvesters-Köztársaság (Scott #6N35, Z.# 335, G.#844), 10 Bani Harvesters Magyar Posta (Scott #6N45, Z#344, G.#854), 10 Bani Karl (Scott #6N25, Z.#316, G.#834), 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #6N18, Z.#309, G.#827), 2, 10, 20 and 30 Bani Postage Due (Scott #6NJ2, 6NJ5, 6NJ8 and 6NJ9; Z.#55, 58, 61 and 62; G. #D862, D865, D868 and D869).

The inverted overprints of the Cluj issue include errors of which only one copy exists: of the four inverted 2 Bani Harvesters (Scott #5N2, Z.#258, G.#760) sheets, only one displays a single stamp with the "ANI" error; the inverted 3 Lei Parliament (Scott #5N15, Z.#273, G. #775b) sheet shows one stamp with the "LFI" error.

The Cluj and Oradea overprints have been counterfeited, sometimes quite well. A story that has made the rounds of those who specialize in these issues is that a famous counterfeiter displayed to a group of collectors of limited experience a sheet of the Cluj 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #5N11, Z.#269, G.#771). He pointed out to them the tiny characteristic overprint flaws, claiming that these proved it to be an original. Once given this publicity, he broke up the sheet into blocks of four and sold them. One such block was bought by Dr. Albert Szalay who later became a recognized expert on these issues. Szalay checked the characteristic flaws and was delighted by his aquisition. Later, two philatelist friends visited him and showed him their blocks of four of the 75 Bani Parliament (Cluj), with inverted overprints, acquired from the same sheet. To Szalay's amazement, these blocks had the exact same characteristic flaws that his had. The conclusion was clear. The counterfeiter, by tedious work, had created a cliche matching the signs of a genuine block of four and used this to overprint invertedly an entire sheet. We don't know how much truth is in this story, but Dr. Szalay often mentioned in his writings the existence of counterfeit Cluj 75 Bani Parliament inverted overprints.

Inverted overprints of which at least 100 were made

Type	Bani	Color	CLUJ Qnty	Scott	Zumstein	Gibbons	ORADEA Michel	Scott	Zumstein	Gibbons	Qnty
Harvesters	2	brown orange	400	5N2	258	760	26	—	—	—	—
Harvesters	3	red lilac	100	5N3	259	761	27	—	—	—	—
Turul	50	lake, blue	—	—	—	—	17	6N5	364	798	100
Parliament	50	red violet & lilac	—	—	—	—	37	6N17	308	826	100
Parliament	3 Lei	violet & indigo	100	5N15	273	775b	42	—	—	—	—
Karl	15	deep violet	200	5N19	277	779a	46	—	—	—	—
Karl	20	dark brown	—	—	—	—	47	6N26	317	835	200
Karl	25	bright blue	100	5N21	279	781a	48	—	—	—	—
Zita, BANI at top	40	olive green	100	5N22	280	782a	49	—	—	—	—
Zita, BANI at bottom	40	olive green	100	5N22	280	782a	49	—	—	—	—
Postal Savings	10	violet brown	300	5N23	285	B785a	21	—	—	—	—
War Charity	10+2	rose red	400	5NB11	281	757a	23	—	—	—	—
War Charity	15+2	dull violet	200	5NB12	282	758a	24	6NB14	322	813	100
War Charity	40+2	brown carmine	200	5NB13	283	759	25	—	—	—	—
Harvesters-Köztársaság	5	green	—	—	—	—	53	6N32	331	841	4,900
Zita-Köztársaság	50	lilac	—	—	—	—	64	6N43	3391	852a	—
Postage Due	20	green & red	100	5NJ7	51	D791	9	—	—	—	—

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine **FILATELIA** is available through the editor.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

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$23.00/year Air Mail
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REVENUES & CINDERELLAS Part 2

George Pataki

Below, we continue our listing of Romanian revenues and Cinderellas. We start with additions and corrections to the previously presented items. These are in accord with the recently published "Romanian Revenues", by Andrew Hall.

Some revenues listed below are double stamps. Issued as horizontal pairs, they show the words "FACTURI BORDEROURI" (Invoices Borderaux) on the dividing vertical perforation. We illustrate here only the right halves, which are affixed on bills of sale. The left parts of these were for use on the stubs.

ADDENDA & CORRIGENDA:

4. Dati pentru tuberculoşii din Romania, Unwmkd.
   1 Leu, black, 11½,
   2 Lei, sage green, 11½,
   2 Lei, salmon, 13½.
   5 Lei, orange. 11½.

6. Romania, Timbru Fiscal, Unwmkd. 12.8—13. 3 compound.
   30 Bani, purple brown,
   50 Bani, purple brown,
   1 Leu, blue,
   2 Lei, blue,
   3 Lei, blue,
   4 Lei, blue,
   5 Lei, blue,
   10 Lei, blue,
   20 Lei, blue,
   40 Lei, blue,
   50 Lei, blue,

7. Romania, Timbru Fiscal, Unwmkd, 13. 25—13. 5 x 13—13. 5,
   1 Leu, brown,
   2 Lei, blue,
   2.50 Lei, blue
   5 Lei, red,
   8 Lei, blue,
   10 Lei, orange,
   20 Lei, green,
   50 Lei, violet,
   100 Lei, green,

10. Timbru Judiciar, Romania (monogram of King Carol at bottom of column), Wmkd. XIII, 13¾x14¼.
    1 Leu, orange,
    2 Lei, brown,
    5 Lei, carmine lake,
    6 Lei, green,
    10 Lei, red,
    50 Lei, olive,

10.a Timbru Judiciar, Romania (monogram of King Michael at bottom of column), Unwmkd. or Wmkd. XIV, 13¾-14x14¼.
    5 Lei, red,
    20 Lei, purple,
    100 Lei, blue,

NEW LISTINGS:

21. Romania, Facturi Borderouri (Carol II, double), Umwmkd. 14x14½.
    2 Lei, blue,
    3 Lei, gray,
    4 Lei, orange,
    5 Lei, purple,
    10 Lei, purple.

22. Facturi Borderouri (Caroll II, double), Unwmkd. 14x14¼.
    20 Lei, brown,
    50 Lei, orange brown,
    100 Lei, green,
    200 Lei, purple & red,
    500 Lei, gray & blue,

23. Romania, Timbru Fiscal (Carol II), Unwmkd. 14x14½.
    10 Bani, orange,
    30 Bani, green,
    50 Bani, purple,
    1 Leu, brown,
    2 Lei, blue,
    3 Lei, blue,
    5 Lei, red,
    7 Lei, purple,
    8 Lei, green,
    9 Lei, purple,
    10 Lei, brown & purple,
    11 Lei, orange & red,
    20 Lei, brown & green,
    50 Lei, blue & black,
    100 Lei, green.

24. Romania, Fondul Aviatiei, Facturi Borderouri (Carol II, double, pelure), Unwmkd. 13.3-13½.
    10 Lei, blue & red,
    20 Lei, blue & orange,
    50 Lei, blue & red,
    100 Lei, green & green.

25. Romania, Timbru Fiscal (Michael), Unwmkd. 14x14¼.
    1 Leu, purple,
    2 Lei, purple,
    3 Lei, red,
    5 Lei, brown,
    7 Lei, green,
    8 Lei, green,
    9 Lei, blue,
    10 Lei, purple,
    15 Lei, purple,
    20 Lei, red,
    30 Lei, green,
    40 Lei, green.

26. Romania, Facturi Borderouri (Michael, double, pelure), Unwmd. 14x14¼-14½.
    100 Lei, black & blue,
    150 Lei, black & orange,
    200 Lei, black & red,
    300 Lei, black & green,
    500 Lei, black & green,
    600 Lei, black & red,
    1,000 Lei, black & blue,
    2,000 Lei, black & brown,
    5,000 Lei, black & green,
    10,000 Lei, black & red.

27. Romania, Timbru Fiscal (Michael), Wmkd. XIV, 14¼-14.
    100 Lei, black & green,
    200 Lei, black & orange,
    400 Lei, black & orange,
    1,000 Lei, black & red,
    2,000 Lei, black & green,
    5,000 Lei, black & orange.

28. Romania, Facturi Borderouri (Michael, double), Unwmkd, 14¼-14.
    1 Leu, blue,
    2 Lei, red,
    5 Lei, orange,
    5 Lei, purple,
    10 Lei, green,
    20 Lei, purple,
    40 Lei, blue,
    50 Lei, blue,
    100 Lei, green,
    100 Lei, red,
    200 Lei, purple.

29. Romania, Timbru Fiscal, Republica Populara Romana (red ovpt.), Wmkd. XIV, 14¼-14.
    1 Leu, blue,
    2 Lei, green.

30. Timbru Fiscal (R.P.R. coat-of-arms), Wmkd. XV, 14½x14.
    1 Leu, brown,
    2 Lei, blue,
    5 Lei, orange,
    8 Lei, green,
    10 Lei, green,
    16 Lei, purple
    20 Lei, purple,
    40 Lei, red.

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Romanian Parcel Post Cards with Imprinted Fiscal Stamps

George Pataki

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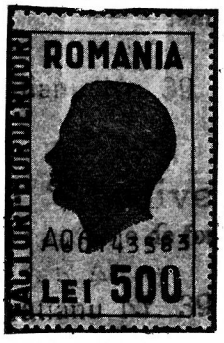

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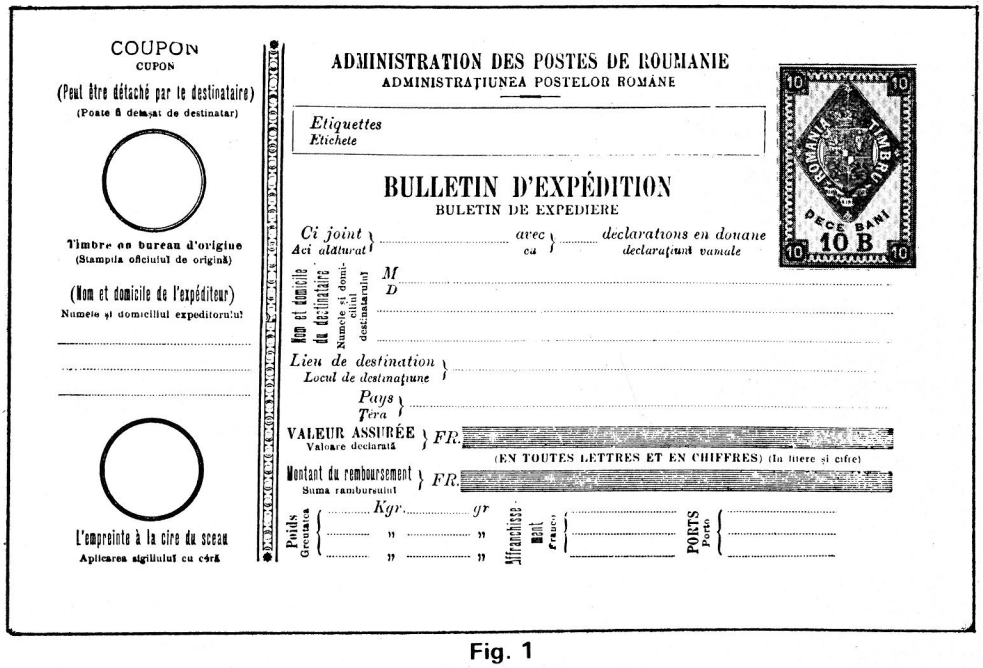

Fig. 1

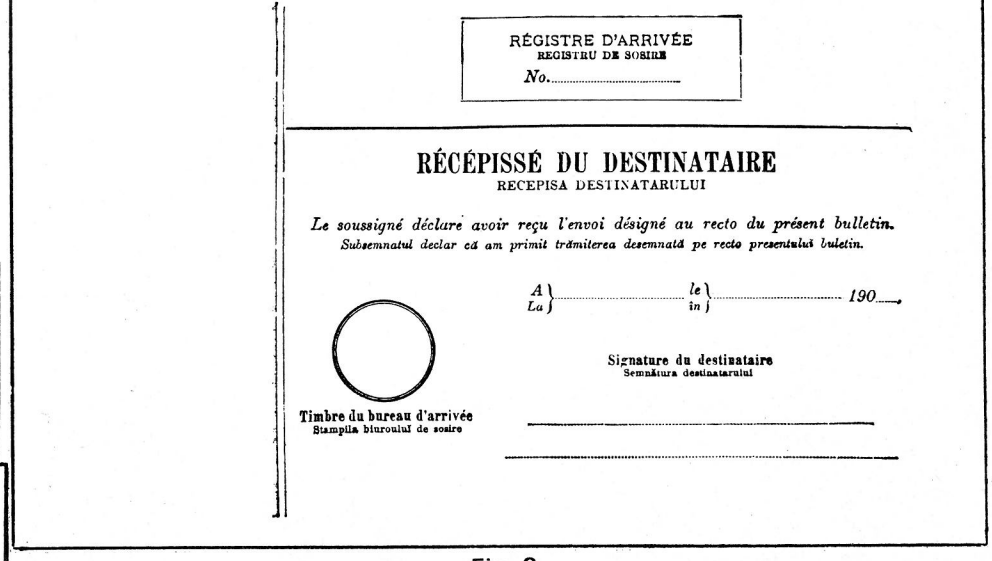

Fig. 2

Romanian Philatelic Studies

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$10.00/year payable to
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c/o the **EDITOR**

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The March 1, 1872 Postal Law stipulated usage of fiscal stamps on shipments having declared value (cash or packages). Shipping charges were to be paid separately in cash and the amount to be marked on the covers. Before this law took effect, such shipments did not require the use of fiscal stamps. The latest dated cover reported without use of a revenue stamp is one accompanying a shipment of 10,000 Lei in cash, sent from Galaţi on April 23, 1871.

Dumitru Paşşalega wrote about declared value shipments in "Timbre Fiscale Româneşti Obliterate Poştal" (Romanian Fiscal Stamps with Postal Obliterations), Filatelia, No. 9/1971. The covers his article discusses bear 10 Bani revenue stamps. They were used during 1874-1881.

The late T. Jickeli's earlier "Timbre Fiscale pe Scrisori Vechi" (Fiscal Stamps on Old Letters), published in Filatelia, No. 4/1963, presented a cover accompanying a cash shipment (1,000 Lei) and bearing a 10 Bani fiscal stamp. This was mailed on Feb. 25, 1881, from Rîmnicul Vîlcea to Sibiu. The notation "franco 1.75/.85" on this cover refers respectively to the shipping and registration fees (both paid in cash).

Later, special forms, with fiscal stamps already imprinted on them, were issued for shipments having declared value. Separate forms existed for domestic and international use. Despite the fact that these parcel post cards served as official postal stationery, Higgins & Gage, Michel and all the Romanian catalogues do not list them. Ascher does note their existence, expending a mere 3 lines under the heading

"Paket-Karten" (Parcel Post Cards), but does not describe or illustrate any examples.

To at least partially fill this gap in our literature, we have gathered available information and present it in order of the various titles on the cards:

I. Buletin de Expediere (Mailing Notice)
II. Scrisoare de Expeditie (Shipping Letter)
III. Foaie de Expediție Poștală (Postal Shipping Form).

I. Buletin de Expediere.

1. Fig. 1 depicts a card for international use. It measures 200 by 130 mm. It is printed in black on both sides of a yellowish paper of postcard thickness. Its upper right corner displays an imprinted 10 Bani stamp reading "ROMANIA TIMBRU DECE BANI 10 B", of exactly the same design and size (28 by 43 mm.) as the 1875-1898 revenue stamps. Furthermore, its black color with rose background design is similar to that of the fiscal stamps with royal coat-of-arms in a rhombic frame issued in 1890 and 1898. (See "Forbin's Listings of Early Romanian Revenues", R.P.S., No. 4/1983).

French was required on stationery which necessarily would cross national borders. The bilingual text, French and Romanian, on this card proves that it was meant for international use. The top heading reads: "ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE ROUMANIE/ADMINISTRAȚIUNEA POSTELOR ROMÂNE" (Romanian Postal Administration) and the title is "BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION/BULETIN DE EXPEDIERE" (Mailing Notice). The coupon at left could be detached and given to the recipient.

Fig. 2 shows the reverse side. Its title reads: "RÉCÉPISSÉ DU DESTINATAIRE /RECEPISA DESTINATARULUI" (Addressee's Receipt). The space for the date contains the year's first three digits preprinted. As this space reads "190.." this parcel post card must have been issued at some time during the first 10 years of the 1900's, probably around the beginning of that decade.

2. Fig. 3 shows a card for international use, measuring 188 by 130 mm. Its black printing is on yellowish paper, having the thickness of a postcard. The upper right corner displays a grayish brown imprinted 10 Bani stamp with a text reading "ROMANIA TIMBRU FISCAL (Romania Revenue Stamp). The denomination "10 BANI" appears on both sides of the oval fram containing the King Carol I's effigy. The bottom portion of the design consists of an ornamental pattern containing repetitions of the words "FACTURI" (Invoices) and "CHITANTE" (Receipts). The stamp, measuring 28 by 32 mm., matches the design, color and denomination of a revenue stamp issued in 1911. Thus, we can presume that this card was issued about that time.

The form's bilingual title reads: "ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE ROUMANIE/ADMINISTRAȚIUNEA POSTELOR ROMÂNE". A red label with black legend "Colis Postal" (Parcel Post) has been pasted over this title. Below it, in the space reserved for labels, marked "Etiquettes /Etichete" (Labels), a yellow registration label with black inscription, "No. 5015 București",has affixed. Below this, we find the form's title, "BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION/BULETIN DE EXPEDIERE". The im-

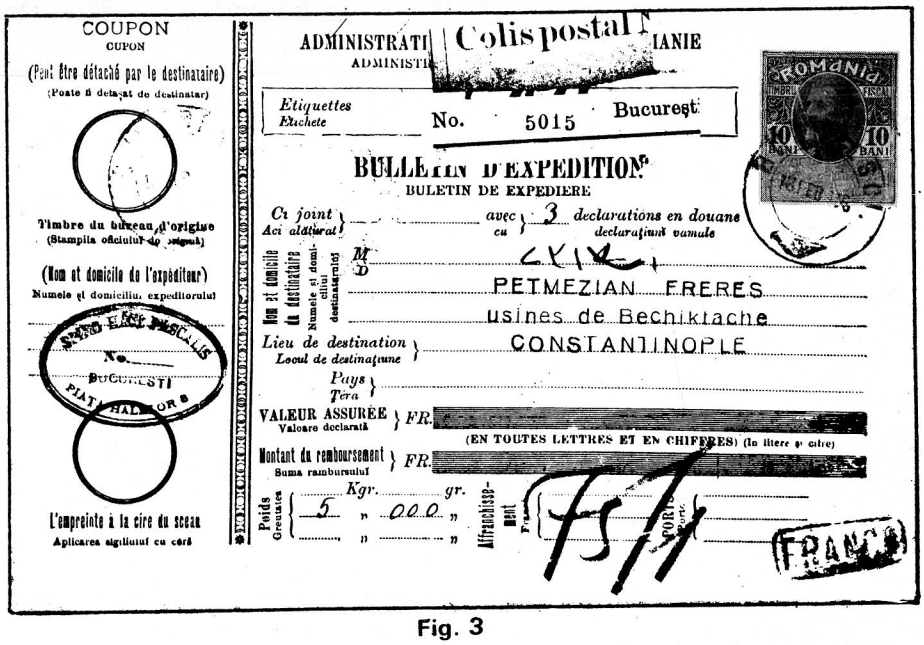


Fig. 3

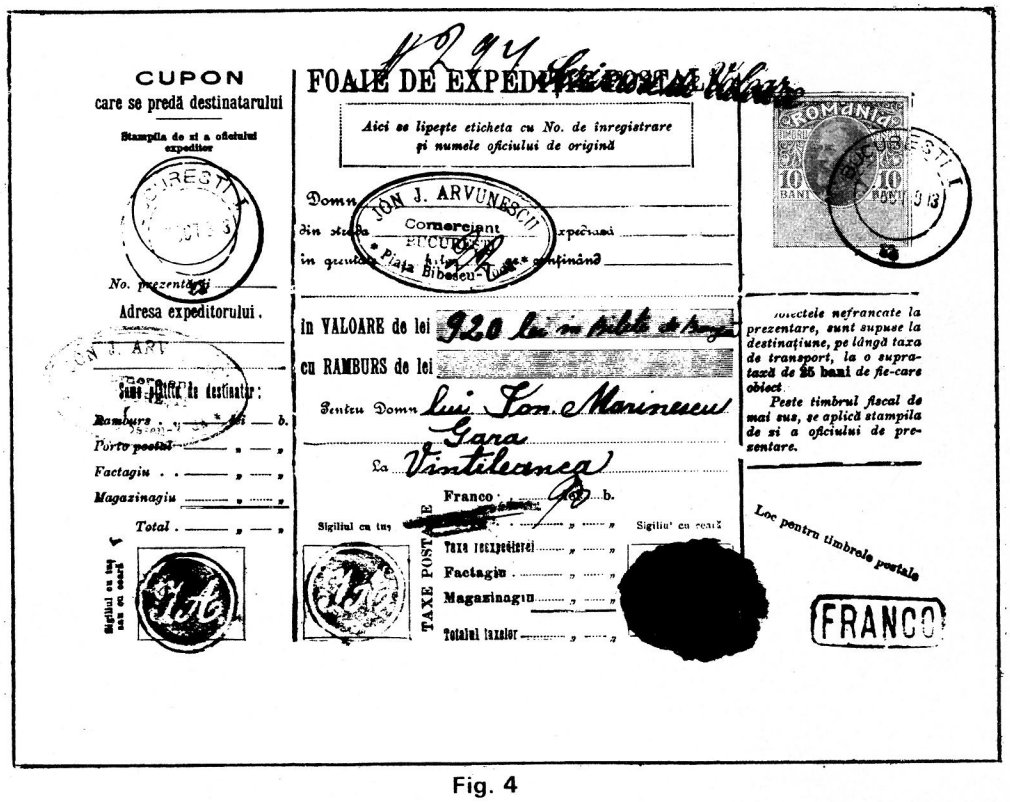

CUPON
care se predă destinatarului
FOAIE DE EXPEDIȚIE
Aici se lipește eticheta cu No. de inregistrare
și numele oficiului de origină
JON J. ARVUNESCU
Comerciant
BUCUREȘTI
Adresa expeditorului.
în VALOARE de lei 920 Lei in bilete de Banca
cu RAMBURS de lei
Sumele nefrancate la prezentare, sunt supuse la destinațiune, pe lângă taxa de transport, la o suprataxă de 25 bani de fie-care obiect.
Peste timbrul fiscal de mai sus, se aplică stampila de si a oficiului de prezentare.
Loc pentru timbrele postale
FRANCO
TAXE POSTALE

Fig. 4

printed stamp as well as the top of the coupon are obliterated by the "BUCURESCI 18 FEB 916" marking of the originating office. The handwritten, blue pencil notation, "75/1" and the black "FRANCO" marking at the bottom both show that the sender prepaid the full postage.

This parcel post card accompanied a 5 kg. package sent by Spiro Hagi Pascalis, of Bucharest. He applied his handstamp on the coupon, on the spot marked "(Nom et domicile de l'expediteur)/Numele si domiciliul expeditorului" (Name and address of sender). The addresses, "Petmezian Freres" (Petmezian Brothers), of Constantinople, Turkey, applied their marking on the card's reverse to attest that they had received the package. The back of this card is titled "RÉCÉPISSÉ DU DESTINATAIRE /RECEPISA DESTINATARULUI", and matches that of Fig. 2, described above. As the Constantinople postmark is dated "18 MAR 1916", it took a month for the package to arrive at its destination.

3. Emanoil Săvoiu's "Intreguri Poștale" (Postal Stationery), published in "Almanahul Filatelic 1983" (1983 Philatelic Almanac) describes, but does not illustrates two parcel post cards entitled "Buletin de Expediție". One, measuring 198 by 129 mm. is printed on yellowish cardboard. Its upper right corner bears an imprinted 30 Bani brown fiscal stamp with King Ferdinand's portrait. As the text is bilingual, French and Romanian, it was for international use. As with the above, the back of this card also serves as the addressee's receipt. The description of the other card not pictured matches the one we have described above as card no.1.

II. Scrisoare de Expeditie.

1. Gabriel Sassower (of London, England) wrote about a "Scrisoare de Expeditie" card in Filatelia, No. 1/1982, under the title "Timbre Fiscale Fixe pe... Intreguri Românești? (Imprinted Fiscal Stamp on... Romanian Stationery?). Printed on thin paper, this card's upper right corner bears an imprinted 10 Bani rose and black, rhomboid framed coat-of-arms fiscal stamp. Although only Romanian text appear, it accompanied a package sent from Craiova to Gera, Germany. Mailed March 9, 1891, it arrived March 19, 1891.

1a. Săvoiu's article describes and illustrates another, printed on white paper and measuring 231 by 128 mm. While this card's text and layout match Sassower's the imprinted stamp is yellowish-orange and black.

2. Another "Scrisoare de Expeditie" card that Savoiu presents is printed on white paper and measures 198 by 131 mm. It bears the same imprinted 10 Bani fiscal stamp, although its colors are rose and black. However, the text and layout differ from the first. Under the imprinted stamp, a 7 line set of instructions appears.

III. Foaie de Expediție Poștală.

1. "Timbre Fiscale Fixe pe... Intreguri Romanesti?", by Gheorghe A. Bighia (published in Filatelia, No.2/1981), presents a parcel post card on yellowish white paper, with the same 10 Bani rose and black imprinted fiscal stamp, showing coat-of-arms in rhombic (diamond shaped) frame. The card, titled "FOAE DE EXPEDIȚIE POSTALA" measures 200 by 131 mm. Intended for domestic use, its text appears only in Romanian. Below the imprinted stamp, under the heading "TAXARE" (Charge) 18 lines set out the instructions.

Savoiu's aformentioned article presents similar cards. Their sizes differ slightly probably due to inaccurate cutting.

2. Fig. 4 shows a card for domestic use. Measuring 200 by 162 mm., it displays black printing on white paper of medium thickness (thinner than that of a postcard). Its 10 Bani brown King Carol I stamp, imprinted in the upper right corner, matches the one described on the "Buletin de Expediere" card No.2. The form's title, "FOAIE DE EXPEDIȚIE POSTALA" is partially obscured by a black, italic "Scrisoare de Valoare" (Value Letter) handstamp or overprint. The title's first word is spelled "FOAIE", while on the earlier type it reads "FOAE". This form accompanied a letter containing 920 Lei in banknotes, mailed on Oct. 7, 1913, from Bucharest to "Gara Vintileanca" (Vintileanca Railway Station). As required by rules printed on its right column, the stamp was obliterated by the dispatching post office's date canceller. The card's upper left corner received the same cancellation (BUCURESTI 7 OCT 913), falling on the coupon to be given to the recipient. The sender, Ion I. Arvunescu, a Bucharest merchant, twice applied his seal, consisting of the intitials "I.A.". In violet ink, these initials show on the lower part of the coupon and on the bottom of the main card, on the specially designated areas. Similarly, his wax seal appears in the proper spot on the main card. The lower right side of the card contains a place marked "Loc pentru timbrele postale" (Space for postage stamps), where adhesives paying for postage could be affixed. On this form, a black hand-stamp reading "FRANCO" indicates that postage had been paid, which is also attested to by the manuscript "90" on the "TAXE POSTALE/Franco" area.

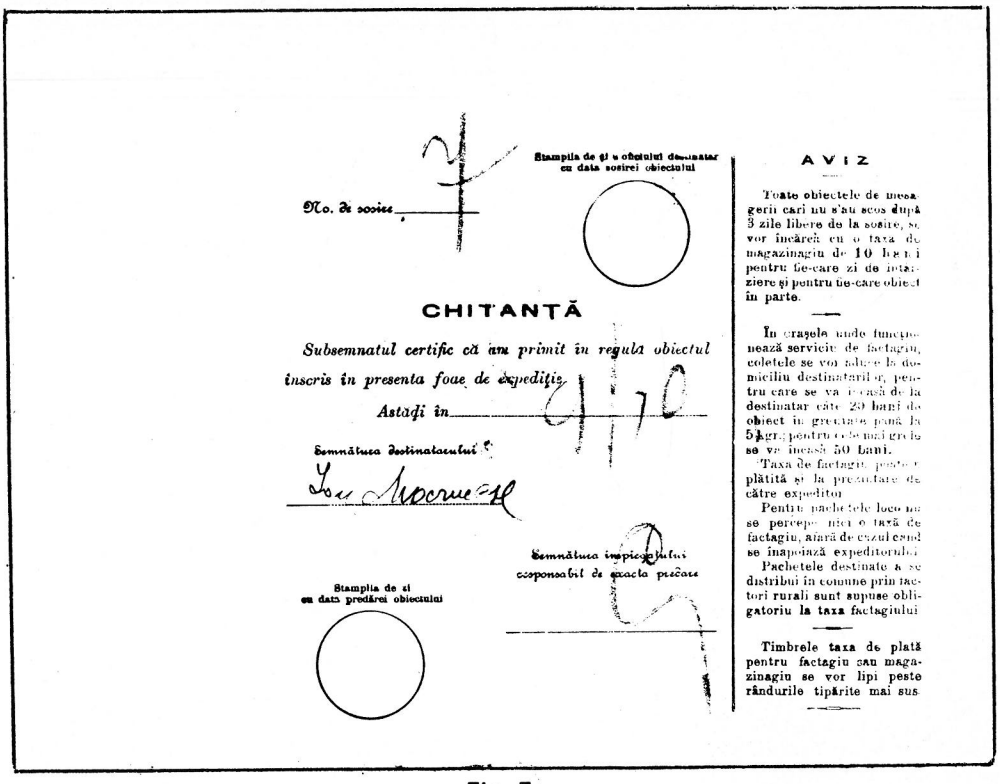

No. de ordine
Stampila de zi a oficiului destinatar cu data sosirei obiectului
CHITANȚĂ
Subsemnatul certific că am primit în regulă obiectul inscris în presenta foae de expediție
Astăzi în
Semnătura destinatarului
Semnătura impiegatului responsabil de exacta predare
Stampila de zi cu data predărei obiectului
AVIZ
Toate obiectele de mesageriі cari nu s'au scos după 3 zile libere de la sosire, se vor încărca cu o taxa de magazinagiu de 10 bani pentru fie-care zi de întârziere și pentru fie-care obiect în parte.
În orașele unde funcționează serviciu de factagiu, coletele se vor aduce la domiciliu destinatarilor, pentru care se va încasă de la destinatar câte 20 bani de obiect în greutate până la 5 kgr.; pentru cele mai grele se vor încasă 50 bani.
Taxa de factagiu poate fi plătită și la presentare de către expeditor.
Pentru pachetele locale nu se percepe nici o taxă de factagiu, afară de cazul când se însărcinează expeditorul.
Pachetele destinate a se distribui în comune prin factori rurali sunt supuse obligatoriu la taxa factagiului
Timbrele taxa de plată pentru factagiu sau magazinagiu se vor lipi peste rândurile tipărite mai sus

Fig. 5

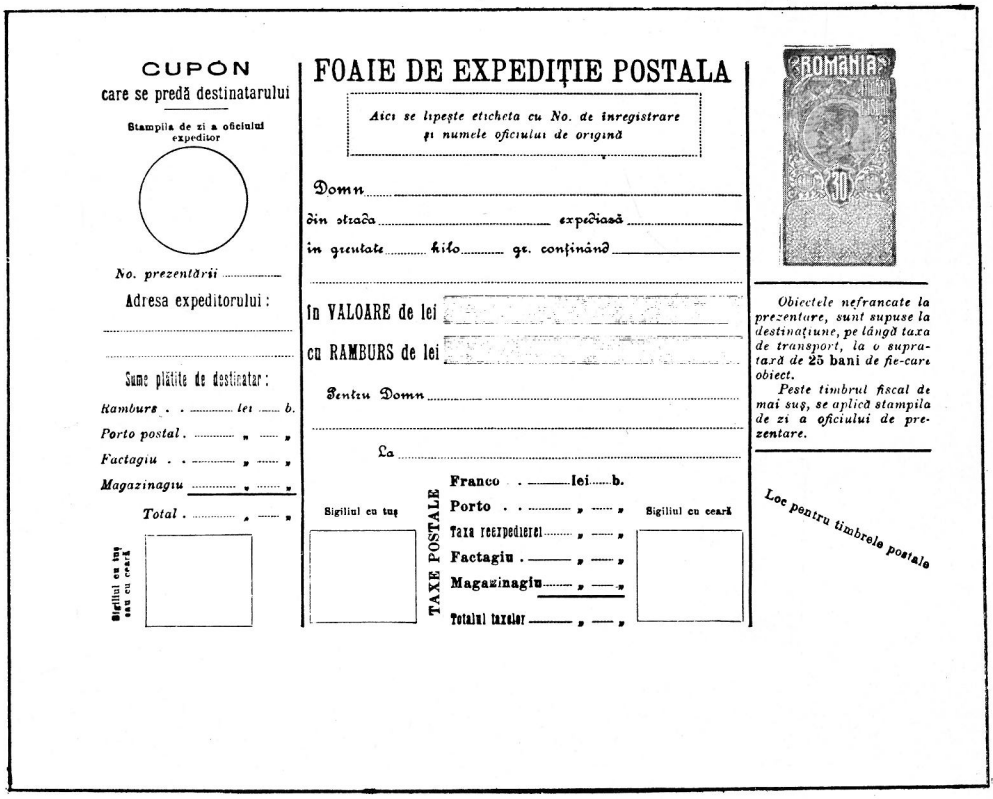

CUPON
care se predă destinatarului
Stampila de zi a oficiului expeditor
No. prezentării
Adresa expeditorului:
Sume plătite de destinatar:
Ramburs . . .. lei ..... b.
Porto postal . ..... „ ..... „
Factagiu . . .. „ ..... „
Magazinagiu ..... „ ..... „
Total . ..... „ ..... „
Sigiliul cu tuș
Sigiliul cu ceară
FOAIE DE EXPEDIȚIE POSTALA
Aici se lipește eticheta cu No. de înregistrare și numele oficiului de origină
Domn
din strada expediată
în greutate kilo gr. conținând
în VALOARE de lei
cu RAMBURS de lei
Pentru Domn
La
TAXE POSTALE
Franco . ..... lei ..... b.
Porto . . .. „ ..... „
Taxa recepționerei ..... „ ..... „
Factagiu . ..... „ ..... „
Magazinagiu ..... „ ..... „
Totalul taxelor ..... „ ..... „
Sigiliul cu tuș
Sigiliul cu ceară
ROMANIA
Obiectele nefrancate la prezentare, sunt supuse la destinațiune, pe lângă taxa de transport, la o suprataxă de 25 bani de fie-care obiect.
Peste timbrul fiscal de mai sus, se aplică stampila de zi a oficiului de prezentare.
Loc pentru timbrele postale

Fig. 6

The back of this card (Fig. 5) is a "CHITANȚĂ" (Receipt). The clerk at the receiving post office filled this out in blue pencil, dating it "9/10" (Oct. 9). He handed over the shipment to its recipient, Ion Marinescu, who signed for it on the proper place.

The right of this reverse side under the heading "AVIZ" (Notice), states rules. As this section sheds light on the prescribed use of this form as well as the workings of the Romanian posts of the time, its translation follows: "All mailed items not claimed in 3 working days, will be charged a storage fee of 10 Bani for each day of delay, counted separately for each item. In cities where delivery service exists, packages will be delivered to the recipient's residence, for which the recipient will be charged 20 Bani per item weighing up to 5 kg. and 50 Bani for heavier ones.

Delivery charges may also be paid by the sender at the time of mailing. For local packages no delivery fees will be charged, unless returned to the sender. Packages delivered in villages by rural mailmen, will necessarily be subject to delivery charges. Any postage due stamps for the delivery or storage will be affixed over the text printed above".

Savoiu presented a similar card, measuring 205 by 165 mm., stating that it was issued Sept. 25, 1911.

3. Fig.6 illustrates a domestic use card. It measures 203 by 163 mm. The black is on slightly yellowish paper of postcard thickness. The upper right corner bears a 30 Bani reddish brown imprinted fiscal stamp measuring 24 by 46 mm. The stamp features King Ferdinand's bust within a circular frame and its text reads "ROMANIA/TIMBRU/FISCAL/BANI 30 BANI". Above the portrait is an eagle with spread wings, while below it we find an ornamental design. Revenue stamps of identical design but with different colors and denominations were used on financial and commercial documents. Below the imprinted stamp is a text which, when translated, reads: "Items unfranked at time of mailing, upon arrival at their destination, are subject to a surcharge of 25 Bani a piece over the mailing fee. The dated cancellor of the originating office should be applied on the above revenue stamp". Although differing as far as the imprinted stamp and the paper are concerned, this card's text, lettering and layout, both on the front and on the back, exactly match those of card No.2, described above. According to Savoiu, this card was issues in 1924.

Such cards are known to have been used with 25 Bani "Timbru Statistic" and 25 Bani" Asistența Socială" stamps affixed on the lower right corner.

4. Fig.7 shows a card for domestic use. Measuring 196 by 160 mm., it is printed in black on white paper of postcard thickness. The upper right corner displays an imprinted 2 Lei blue stamp portraying King Ferdinand. Except for this stamp's color and denomination, and the paper's size and thickness, all other features of both the front and the back are the same as on

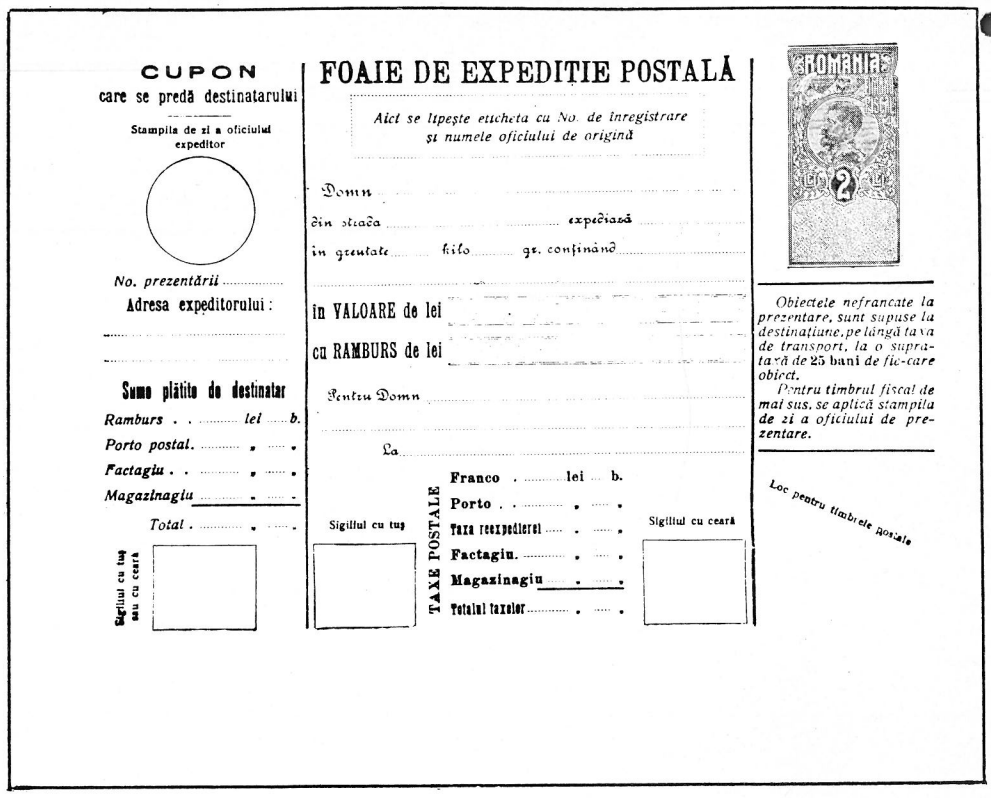

CUPON
care se predă destinatarului
Stampila de zi a oficiului expeditor
No. prezentării
Adresa expeditorului:
Sume plătite de destinatar
Ramburs . . lei b.
Porto postal. . .
Factagiu . . .
Magazinagiu . .
Total . . .
Sigiliul cu tuș sau cu ceară
FOAIE DE EXPEDITIE POSTALĂ
Aici se ltpește etcheta cu No. de inregistrare și numele oficiului de origină
Domn
din strada expediază
in greutate kilo gr. conținând
in VALOARE de lei
cu RAMBURS de lei
Pentru Domn
La
TAXE POSTALE
Franco . lei b.
Porto . .
Taxa recepționerei . .
Factagiu. . .
Magazinagiu . .
Totalul taxelor . .
Sigiliul cu tuș
Sigiliul cu ceară
ROMANIA
Obiectele nefrancate la prezentare, sunt supuse la destinațiune, pe lângă taxa de transport, la o suprataxă de 25 bani de fie-care obiect.
Pentru timbrul fiscal de mai sus, se aplică stampila de zi a oficiului de prezentare.
Loc pentru timbrele Postale

Fig. 7

5. A similar card, on white paper, measuring 192 by 161 mm., displays an imprinted 2.50 Lei blue King Ferdinand stamp. It was issued in 1929.

6. Still another similar card, on white paper, measuring 197 by 161 mm., bears an imprinted 3 Lei blue King Ferdinand fiscal stamp. It was also issued in 1929.

All these parcel post cards bearing imprinted **fiscal** stamps should not be confused either with money order forms with imprinted **postage** stamps (first issued in 1890), or with other types of parcel post cards bearing imprinted **postage** stamps (first issued in 1907).
card No.3. Săvoiu states that this card was issued in 1929.

Because the cards in Săvoiu's article were very poorly reproduced, with some of them not at all illustrated, and since his text required further elucidation, I sent him a request for pictures and clarification. However, even after the request was repeated, it remained unanswered. It is difficult to determine how much of this lack of co-operation is due to the existing rules and how much is because of personal atitudes, laziness, selfishness or plain rudeness.

The dates of issue of most of these parcel post cards with imprinted fiscal stamps are not yet know. Without doubt, others should also exist. More studies as well as cooperation of researchers are needed.

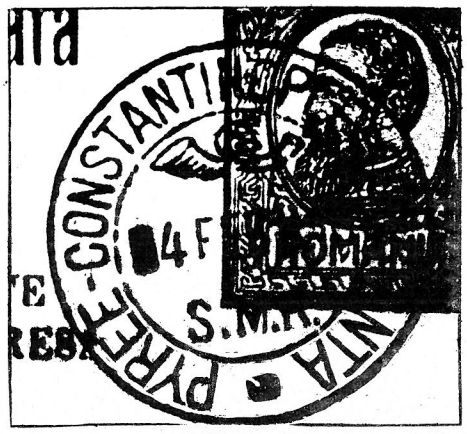
ANOTHER ROMANIAN MARITIME MARKING

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4RX England

A military postcard, uncirculated, recently acquired at a German auction, displays a hitherto unrecorded maritime handstamp. Inscribed PYREE-CONSTANTINOPLE-CONSTANTA, dated 4th February 1910, shows the familiar posthorn and the initials S.M.R., met on the well documented SMYRNE-CONSTANTINOPLE-CONSTANTA and return maritime markings; quite obviously, all form part of the same group.

Naturally, on the evidence of a single strike, produced in all probability for collectors, it would be inprudent to sail too far; reliable conclusions could be drawn should functional usages surface, the readers' co-operation being solicited in this respect. However, at this stage, it is proposed to examine the postmark from two angles, (a) the entire it is applied on and (b) the maritime route it purports to represent.

(a) Would it be possible to ascertain whether the year upon the datestamp is compatible with the postcard? This is problematical; the date of issue of the



military postcard has not been reliably established yet. Ascher's postal stationery catalogue contains a hint, according to which one may deduce that 1911 could be the earliest year for a Romanian military postcard. In the same passage of the catalogue, there is a reference to section 9 of Der Ganzsachen-Sammler 1919, where about hundred varieties of Romanian military postcards are supposed to be dealt with; unfortunately, the philatelic library accessible to the writer, in London, does not possess the particular year of the periodical. Consequently, for the time being, this part of the test remains inconclusive; in any event, the occurence of the strike on a military card seems to be purely fortuitous.

(b) For the purpose, the Constanta-Alexandria line of the S.M.R. (Romanian Maritime Service) should be looked at.

Opened during 1906, the initial itinerary was Constanta-Constantinople-Smyrna-Alexandria and return. This route was altered beginning with late 1909 or early 1910 to run via Piraeus instead of Smyrna, i.e. Constanta - Constantinople - Piraeus-Alexandria and return. Therefore, the route and the year appearing upon the postmark make sense. To the writer's knowledge, there was no Constanta-Constantinople-Piraeus and return service, only as an intermediate stage, on the way to Alexandria, as shown above; the reason for finding PYREE as the first port on the marking (and the last one, should the return pair ever surface) is a matter for speculation - possibly such a service was contemplated, in analogy with the Constanta-Constantinople-Smyrna and return service, to which the route to Alexandria was a slightly later extension.

Finally, hereunder follow dimensional details of the datestamp now reported, which, by the way, presents a greater affinity with the CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPLE-SMYRNE marking than with the SMYRNE-CONSTANTINOPLE-CONSTANTA one.

Diameters measured across the dateline	27 and 17.75 mm
Height of lettering in the annulus	3.1 mm
Height of lettering of the dateline	3.1 mm
Height of lettering of S.M.R.	2.5 mm

The last three measurements have been carried out with a Leitz Wetzlar optical device.

References:

Baedeker's "Das Mittelmeer" 1909, "Greece" 1909, "Palestina und Syrien" 1910, "Mediterranean" 1911

S. Dragomir: New Data on Romanian Maritime Service, Romanian Philatelic Studies No.1/1983.

ANOTHER STAROSTIE AGENCY

by GABRIEL SASSOWER, London, England

Ludovic Dengel, in his article printed in Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 2/1981, lists fourteen Austrian Starostie agencies operating in the Danubian Principalities. Botosani (Bottuschan) is not amongst them.

A registered outer lettersheet, in my collection, confirms the existence of the Starostie. The following details are evident on the document:

(1) The cover is an official one ("Ex offo"), originating from the Imperial and Royal Starostie of Bottuschan and sent to Mr. Theodor Stefanowicz in Terescheny, Bucovina.

(2) It was accompanied by and delivered against the signing of a return receipt ("erga Retour Recipisse").

(3) It was sent unprepaid: manuscript charge mark "10" on the address side; the inscription "die Annahme darf nicht verweigert werden, bei der Abgabe zahlbar" (in German, meaning "the acceptance can not be refused, payable at the handing over"), probably refers to this aspect.

The fragmentary red wax remainders on the missive convey the approximate design of a seal; although only partially preserved, the following elements can be discerned:

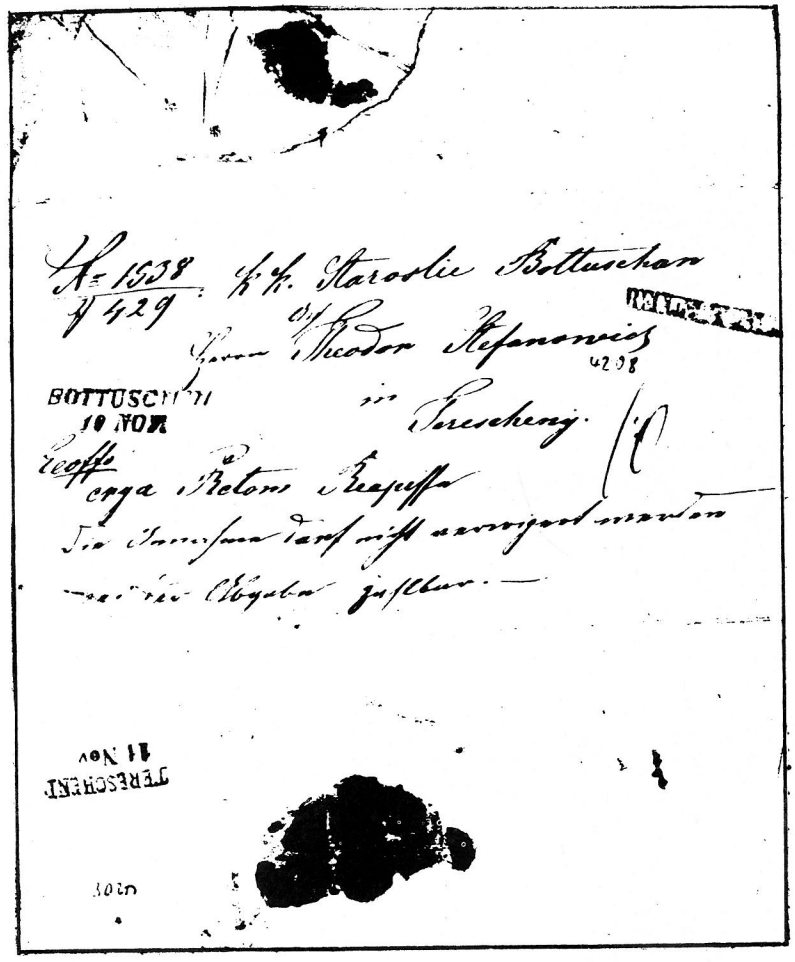
(a) Double-line oval surround, suggesting an over-all dimension of about 36 x 32 mm.

(b) Austrian eagle.

(c) Words: AGENTIE, CONS.., STAROSTIE.

Considering the origin of the letter, one can assume with reasonable certainty that the seal, controlling the closure of the missive, is that of the Bottuschan Starostie. In any event, it varies from all the Starostie cachets illustrated so far in the literature; there is a resemblance with the Waslui cachet (illustrated by Dengel in the above article), although the layout of the inscription is different.

Being only an external envelope, the year can not be ascertained; however due to the fact that the BOTTUSCHAN/10 NOV. and the RECOMANDIRT markings are struck in blue ink, one should perhaps mention that Edwin Mueller (in handbook of the pre-stamps postmarks of Austria) and Tchilinghirian & Stephen (in Austrian post offices abroad, part six) record this colour beginning with 1861.



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1944-45
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Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

Meter Markings

SILVIU DRAGOMIR Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Philometry, a branch of philately, more precisely of macrophily, deals with collecting and studying postal markings applied on mail by special franking devices such as the Pitney-Bowes machines. These automatic meter franking machines were approved internationally by the Universal Postal Union in 1920 and they are now used in many countries by companies having large amounts of mail as well as by post offices. In the U.S.A., a collector of meter markings is known as a philometrist.

The imprinted markings replace the postage stamps and eliminate the necessity for obliteration. As far as Romanian ones go, they contain at least five parts:

1. the name of the country (Romania) whose postal administration authorized using the machine and collects the postage fees registered by the machine, as well as the word "Posta";
2. the denomination in the country's currency (Lei and Bani);
3. a dated cancellation, showing the date as well as name of locality where the stamping takes place;
4. a number identifying the particular machine. This will, of course, correspond to a single owner or user. On Romanian meter markings, this number appears twice: in small numerals on the top of the simulated stamp design, and again at bottom of the dated cancellation.
5. a number, usually consisting of 4 or 5 digits. This represents a count of how many times a marking has been applied by the machine.

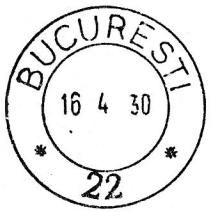
The 6th part is optional; in it appears the name of the company or institution using the machine, and/or an advertisement and/or a slogan. This part may display a written text, a drawing, or both.

To identify markings presented here I have used a code with the letter "M" (for Meter), followed by the number identifying the machine which imprinted them (describ in point 4).

In the past, Romania used two systems. One printed labels with the marking and affixed these labels on the mailed item (Francotyp or Hasler). The other impressed the marking directly on the mail (Universal 5 or Universal Frankers, Ltd.).

M-1

M-22



9834

Dati anunciuri numai prin
RUDOLF MOSSE S.A.
BUCUREŞTI I

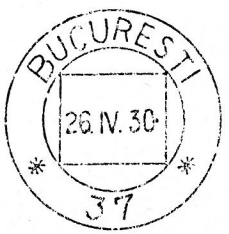
M-32

51848

BANCA
CHRISSOVELONI
BUCURESTI

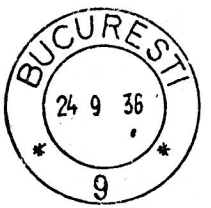
M-37

MINISTERUL
MUNCII,
SANATĂŢII ŞI
OCROTIRILOR
SOCIALE



00843

M-9



9188

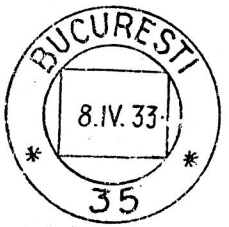
BANCA
ROMANEASCA
BUCUREŞTI I.

M-29

4545

Cetiti
REALITATEA
ilustrată

M-35



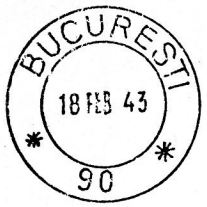
59135

M-51

0552

BANCA
NATIONALĂ A ROMANIEI
BUCUREŞTI I.

M-90



3456

M-99

3274

SOCIETATEA BANCARĂ ROMÂNĂ
STRADA LIPSCANI 33
BUCUREȘTI I.

M-130

0932

M-138

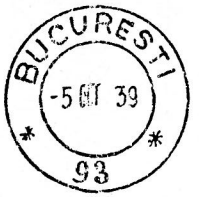
9914

M-162

3021

PENTRU A VA ASIGURA
BANII IN CALATORIILE DVS.
PROCURATIVA
BONURI POSTALE DELA
OFICIILE P.T.T.

M-93



9554

M-124

3698

BANCA ARDELEANĂ
ERDÉLYI BANK
TÂRGU-MUREȘ

M-136

0793

„Franck"
-cafeaua-i
minunată când
e bine preparată!

căs poș t.
67.

M-151

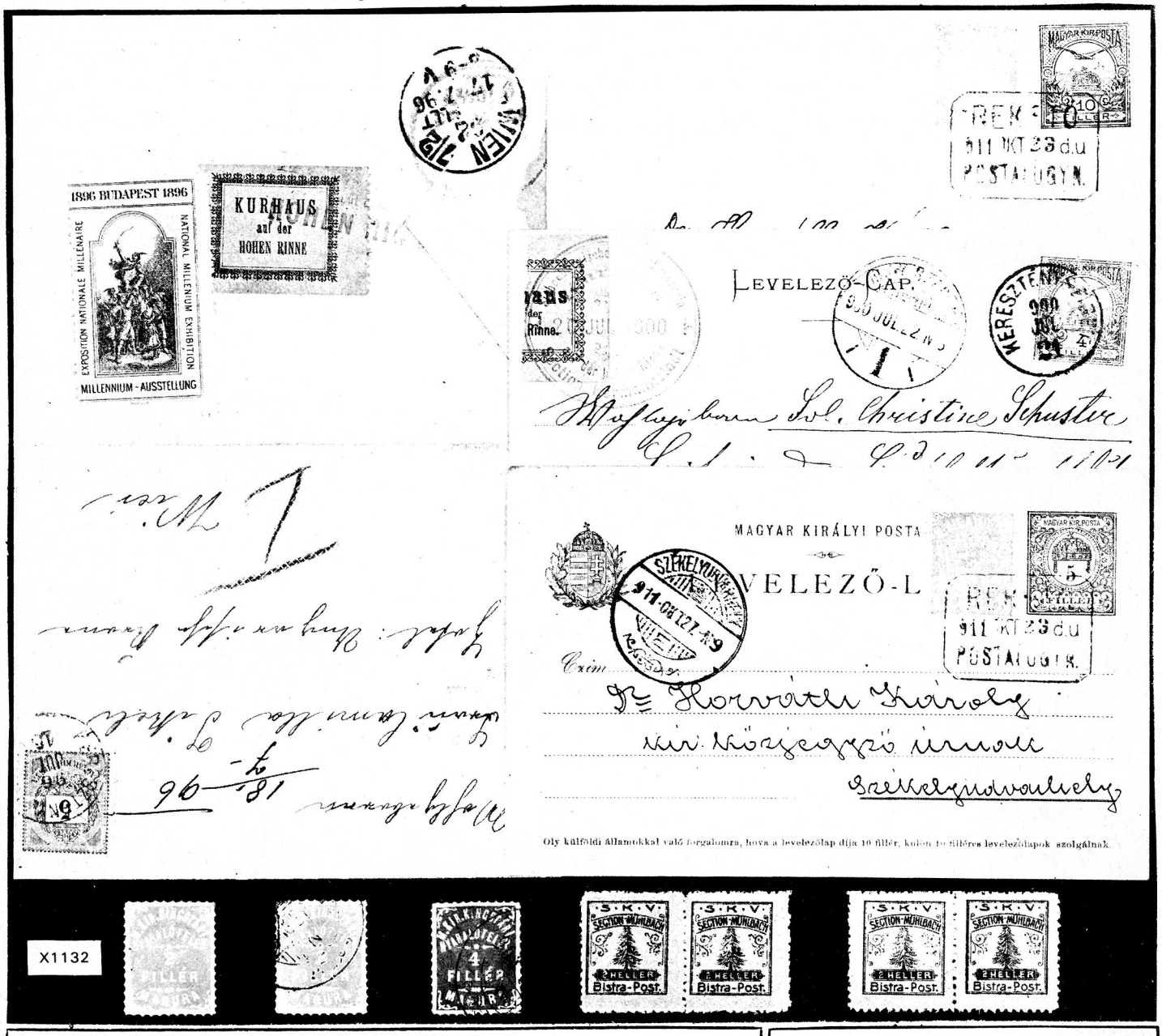
4274

M-200

7345

PENTRU BUCUREȘTI
SCRIȚI ȘI NUMĂRUL
SECTORULUI POSTAL

Lot	Description	Evaluation
	HUNGARY HOTEL POSTS	
1132	★○⊞✉ **The outstanding collection formed by a Swiss philatelist, based substantially on the former Dr. Paul Wolf holding, regarded as the finest of its kind; Hohe Rinne begins with (2kr) black on yellow type 1 of 1895 tied by hotel cancel to cvr to Wien, then 3 mint second issue type I and 4 on piece, 2 bisects on cards and one on piece, a mint type II which the collector states has not been known used (although listed by Williams); the 1901-1909 issues contain 20 covers or cards (many colored views of the hotel) with one pair and 1 bisect, 3 on piece incl imperf 2h 1901 (in the catalogs) cancelled 23 Sep 1900, plus extensive mint with imperfs and multiples; the pictorial issues have ten sheetlets of 4 (one cancelled), and two sheets of 10, 19 cards or cvrs, mint stationery (2) and single stamps; the extremely rare Magura first issue of 1903 has an unused 2f, and used 2f and 4f, 1911 2f on card and 4f on cvr; and last, Bistra 1909 with pairs and singles of the rare 2h in both shades and various types and varieties, 6h single, pair and block, same, and six on cards or cvrs; the collection is not only well written up, but has ample reference material, articles, pictures, letters, etc; the 1962 L.N. and M. Williams catalog value of £1,526 could be conservatively translated to one 1962 Pound equaling ten 1983 dollars (the 1962 Pound having been $2.80) to reflect not even a four times increase for this popular and extremely rare material; condition mostly excellent throughout, an exhibition piece of the first rank.** PHOTO	$13,500



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